

**ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD
2015 ATTENDANCE RECORD**

	January	April	July	October
Mark Campbell	ABSENT	X	X	
Wally Eberhard	ABSENT	X	X	
Tom Gresham	X	X	X	
Karen Harrison	X	X	X	
Dennis Hopper	X	X	ABSENT	
Wayne Miller/Darby Cannon	X _{WM}	X _{WM}	X _{DC}	
Penny Mills	ABSENT	X	X	
Ramona Booth	X	X	X	
George Nale	X	X	ABSENT	
Bill Prokasy	ABSENT	X	X	
Howard Shapiro	X	X	X	
Rita Shoemaker	X	X	X	
Cheryl Slater	X	X	X	
John Timmons	X	X	ABSENT	
Jean Westmacott	X	X	X	
Robert Wyatt	X	X	ABSENT	

**ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD
2014 ATTENDANCE RECORD**

	January	April	July	October
Svea Bogue	ABSENT	X	ABSENT	X
Tom Gresham	X	X	X	X
Karen Harrison	X	ABSENT	X	X
Kelly Holt	X	ABSENT	X	ABSENT
Dennis Hopper	X	X	X	X
Wayne Miller	X	X	ABSENT	ABSENT
Penny Mills	X	X	X	X
Michael Moak (Ramona Booth for Oct.)	X	X	X	ABSENT Ramona Booth's 1 st Meeting
George Nale	X	X	X	ABSENT
Bill Prokasy	X	X	X	X
Howard Shapiro	X	X	X	X
Rita Shoemaker	ABSENT	X	X	X
Cheryl Slater	X	X	X	X
John Timmons	X	X	X	X
Jean Westmacott	X	X	X Late, in @4p & out @5p	X Late, in @4p
Robert Wyatt	X	X	ABSENT	ABSENT

**Draft Agenda
Athens Regional Library Board Meeting
January 15, 2015**

Call to Order

Introduction of New Members

Minutes of the October 16, 2014 meeting and Called meeting on December 11, 2014

Public Comment [5 minute limit]

Adopt Agenda

Financial Report—Mamie Simonds, Business Manager

Regional Reports

Director's Report

Unfinished Business

Audit Report for FY2014

Discussion of Transition to New Director

Expectations and Evaluation of ARLS Director

New Business

Discussion on Leave Bank for Staff—John Timmons

Approval of Mileage Rate Increase

Legislation [construction for Bogart, MRR, and Materials]

Update on Varsity Hot Dog Day at Capitol:

(Georgia Council of Public Libraries, Jan. 29 at State Capitol 11 am - 2 pm)

Announcements:

Board Meeting Dates for 2015

Adjournment

Next Meeting is April 16, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Draft Minutes of October 16, 2014 Meeting

Athens-Clarke County Library Board Room 3:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by new Chairman (till end of 2014) Cheryl Slater (Franklin County). Present were Ms. Mills (Oconee County), Ms. Shoemaker (Franklin County), Mr. Gresham, Mr. Shapiro, and Ms. Westmacott (Oglethorpe County), Ms. Harrison (Madison County), Ms. Bogue, Mr. Hopper, Mr. Prokasy, and Mr. Timmons (Athens-Clarke County). Absent were Ms. Holt and Mr. Wyatt (Oconee County), Ms. Booth and Mr. Nale (Madison County), and Mr. Miller (Franklin County). Staff present were Mrs. Ames, Ms. Simonds, Ms. Brumby, Ms. Green, and Ms. Ovington, who recorded the Minutes.

The Minutes of July 17, 2014 board meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Mills, seconded by Ms. Harrison). The Minutes of August 21, 2014 Called board meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Hopper). After the addition of a section on an Update on the Constitution and By-Laws Study re: a Director Emeritus was added to Unfinished Business, the Agenda was unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Gresham). There was no public comment.

Staff Report:

A Staff Report was given by Clare Auwarter, retiring liaison to the Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library. She discussed how the Friends groups work in unique ways to support their libraries, recent activity, and explained how patrons can use Kroger Community Rewards and Amazon Smile to raise funds, and gave out forms.

Financial Report:

Ms. Simonds presented the Regional 1st Quarter FY15 financial report to the Board. We should be at around 25% of our annual regional budget. Overall regional revenues were at 24.19% and expenditures were at 24.15%. Regional fees were \$3,897.45 in this first quarter. On the expenditure side, dues and registrations were at 62% due to the fact that most of the annual dues for the year had been paid in the first quarter. Ms. Simonds also noted that the state materials budget was at 74% due to the fact that most of this year's budget will be allocated to access to electronic resources which are normally paid for at the beginning of the fiscal year. Ms. Simonds also stated that Randy Sanders, CPA and Terry Masters, CPA had finished up the annual audit (FY14). She noted it was a successful engagement.

Regional Reports

Madison County:

Ms. Harrison reported that their slate of officers includes Victor Johnson and Ramona Booth continuing as Chair and Vice-Chair. Their Constitution & By-Laws was reviewed, and they found it sufficient to remain as it is. The cleaning company contract has gone out to bid, and it was decided that they will stay with their current company Two Women & a Bucket. The FOL Sale netted over \$4,000. Renovation and landscaping improvements are still set to have a water feature installed in front of the building by the Girl Scouts. Their Summer Reading Program was very successful as Teen involvement increased 40% in Registration and 45% on the number of books read.

Oconee County:

Ms. Mills reported on their efforts to professionally develop their staff with trainings to be planned. Bogart branch expanding is hopeful as it is #7 on the Building Priority List. A November 2014 event for legislators will potentially find the proposal moved up to the top four slots for funding. Oconee County will offer \$950,000 in matching funds if the project receives the go-ahead. In January 2015 they will host a Board event to which they'll invite local officials and funding agencies, including the Board of Education. Their FOL group presented a check for \$23,000 from their recent Book Sale, in addition to their \$10,000 they raised and donated from their Spring Book Sale. The Board is currently lobbying for SPLOST 2015 funding. They are examining their meeting room policy with regard to fees charged for use, as well as the possibility of prohibiting campaign signs on the properties, so Guidelines will likely be updated.

Franklin County:

Ms. Shoemaker reported that their Constitution & By-Laws will remain as they are. Lavonia branch has successfully completed Phase I (exterior) of their renovation. At the Royston branch, large cracks have been seen on the building exterior, and that will be rectified.

Oglethorpe County:

Ms. Westmacott reported that they will soon have two new board members: William Cabaniss and Phyllis Jackson. Kate DeWolf was elected Vice-Chair, filling Sam Nash's unexpired term. Mr. Nash had to resign due to increased job demands. The county approved the OCL budget with no increase over the FY2014 budget except \$500 to cover the Teachers Retirement expense for the branch manager. The FY2015 budget was then approved, with pending corrections, by the OCL Board of Trustees yesterday. When one staff person resigned in August, the position was not filled, but more hours and a slight hourly wage increase was given to the remaining library assistants. Library hours were reduced by six. These changes lowered the number of hours when only one staff person was on duty from 17 to about 10 hours per week, improving security and

service. These changes have also reduced the deficit. Mr. Gresham reported that the FOL will have their Fall Book Sale in early November and have begun the first FOL Pledge Drive which will continue through December. The Friends' goal is to raise \$5,000 for the library. The Summer Reading Program was successful, there was a MRR Grant application submitted, and they are working with one certified municipality to increase its level of support. They are also concerned about the impact of the new gun law on the library.

Athens-Clarke County:

Mr. Hopper described the new gun law training that Officer Tim Scott offered all staff at ACCL. The Constitution & By-Laws will be looked at for any necessary updates by Mr. Eberhard and others. The Heritage Room policy is still being worked on but the Digital media Center policy has been approved and will open in coming weeks. Budget Goals for 2016 are being worked on, and there are several staff members retiring or resigning. Staff Development Day will be Nov. 11th. The ACCL FOL group will have a Book Sale on March 11-14, 2015, with the preview on the 11th.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Ames discussed segments of the FY2014 Annual Report. We are at just over \$11 per capita for Services. She also reported on the Aspen Report. The Talking Book Center will continue to be funded. Progress is being made on having it serve as an outreach Center for three years, funding two employees. Staffing changes are region-wide. ARLS received a STEM grant and ordered materials/books. The MRR Grant for computers was also approved. The full report is attached.

Unfinished Business:

Update on Director Search: Mr. Prokasy spoke on behalf of the personnel Committee and said they have sixteen applicants from across the nation and are currently checking References, they will proceed with scheduling interviews for several candidates toward the end of the month.

Annual Report for FY2014: Covered in Director's Report.

Update on Constitution & By-Laws Study: Mr. Hopper reported that there is nothing barring or inhibiting the appointment of a Director Emeritus for the Board, so the Policy Committee will look at incorporating that into a revision of the documents.

New Business:

Resource Collections Management Policy: Ms. Brumby went over the policy and a unanimous vote took place to approve it (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Shapiro).

Request for Reconsideration of Library Resource or Service Form: Ms. Brumby went over this and how it speaks to regional reporting responsibility. A unanimous vote

took place to approve it (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Hopper).

Legislative Issues (Bogart Construction, MRR, Materials): Construction priorities List has Bogart as seventh at present; however, the Board of regents usually funds the top four. There are several MRR service projects proposed for 2016 in the continuation of the Governor's Budget.

Election of Officers: Mr. Prokasy of the Personnel Committee put forth a slate of new officers and a vote took place to unanimously approve each of them. Officers for 2015 are Cheryl Slater – Chair, George Nale - Vice-Chair, Tom Gresham - Treasurer, and Karen Harrison – Member At Large (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Timmons).

Calendar of Scheduled Closings for 2015, unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Timmons).

Additionally, a minimal amount of AIG & Hess financial stock owned by the Regional Board is to be sold per unanimous vote (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Prokasy). Monies will then go into the Oconee and Athens Gift Accounts.

Staff Development Day (November 11): Ms. Green gave a run-down of what the staff will experience that day including classes, special presenters, and lunch.

Announcements:

All Libraries closed all day on Tuesday, Nov. 11 for Staff Development Day
Board Meeting dates for 2015 were distributed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm (motioned by Mr. Prokasy, seconded by Ms. Bogue).

Next Meeting is January 15, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

**ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
CALLED BOARD MEETING**

**Draft Minutes, December 11th, 2014, 3:00 pm
Athens-Clarke County Library Board Room**

The Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees met in a Called meeting to discuss a personnel matter, selection of the next director of the ARLS, on December 11, 2014, at 3:00 pm in the ACCL board room. Present were Chairman Cheryl Slater, and Ms. Shoemaker of Franklin County; Ms. Westmacott, Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Gresham of Oglethorpe County; Ms. Booth and Ms. Harrison of Madison County; Mr. Hopper, Ms. Bogue, Mr. Timmons, and Mr. Prokasy of Athens-Clarke County; and Mr. Wyatt of Oconee County. Staff present was Director Kathryn Ames who recorded the Minutes.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Slater at 3:02 pm. The agenda was approved as presented upon motion by Mr. Timmons and second by Mr. Hopper, unanimous vote.

The Policy Committee report was given by Mr. Hopper. A study of the Constitution and By-Laws does not prohibit a Director Emeritus and therefore the recommendation of the Committee was to name Kathryn S. Ames as Director Emeritus. This was unanimously approved; motion by Mr. Hopper and second by Mr. Timmons.

The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 3:06 pm where discussion ensued about the selection of the next ARLS library director. The Board reconvened in open session at 4:41 pm upon a motion from Ms. Bogue, second from Mr. Shapiro. Mr. Timmons made the motion to offer the position of Director of the Athens Regional Library System to "Candidate A" [Valerie Bell] at the State Salary Schedule [to be determined by the Georgia Public Library Service based on experience and degree] plus \$20,000 in local supplement. This motion was second by Mr. Shapiro and was unanimously approved. An alternative plan was identified if necessary.

Ms. Bogue then made the motion to offer \$1,000 for moving expenses for the successful candidate. This was second by Ms. Westmacott and unanimously approved.

The transition should begin on January 1, 2015 but is subject to negotiation. In the interim until the new candidate is able to join the library, Mrs. Ames will serve as the interim director on a 49% basis. The motion was made by Ms. Westmacott, second by Mr. Shapiro, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Slater noted that at the January 2015 regional board meeting, the group should be prepared to discuss expectations and performance measures as well as the 6-month probationary period for the new director.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm upon motion by Mr. Shapiro, second by Ms. Bogue and unanimous vote.

The next Quarterly Meeting is January 15, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., ACCL Board Room.

Athens Regional Library
FY2014
July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

<i>Expenditures:</i>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Amount Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% of Budget Expended</u>
<i>Regional:</i>				
Wages/Benefits Courier	29,661.00	14,112.54	15,548.46	47.58%
Vehicle Operating & Repairs	6,810.00	3,568.71	3,241.29	52.40%
Summer Reading Club	4,000.00	2,234.21	1,765.79	55.86%
Debt Collection Service	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	0.00%
Workers Compensation	12,000.00	2,635.00	9,365.00	21.96%
Professional Fees	4,575.00	2,467.00	2,108.00	53.92%
Postage	4,000.00	1,875.00	2,125.00	46.88%
Travel	6,702.00	893.99	5,808.01	13.34%
Advertising	-	539.80	(539.80)	
Director's search expenditures	-	4,390.94	(4,390.94)	
Printing and Publicity	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	0.00%
Dues/Registration	2,000.00	1,560.00	440.00	78.00%
Computer Maintenance	2,420.00	-	2,420.00	0.00%
Insurance	17,142.00	-	17,142.00	0.00%
Supplies	20,000.00	3,211.77	16,788.23	16.06%
Personnel	538,409.01	269,204.51	269,204.50	50.00%
Materials	23,012.10	17,957.24	5,054.86	78.03%
System Services Grant	99,564.00	49,782.00	49,782.00	50.00%
Talking Book Center	<u>124,620.00</u>	<u>62,310.00</u>	<u>62,310.00</u>	<u>50.00%</u>
Totals	<u>901,915.11</u>	<u>436,742.71</u>	<u>465,172.40</u>	<u>48.42%</u>
 <i>Athens-Clarke County:</i>				
Outreach	44,000.00	22,000.00	22,000.00	50.00%
Personnel	1,522,102.50	712,854.83	809,247.67	46.83%
Operating Expenses	<u>367,053.50</u>	<u>143,391.53</u>	<u>223,661.97</u>	<u>39.07%</u>
Totals	<u>1,933,156.00</u>	<u>878,246.36</u>	<u>1,054,909.64</u>	<u>45.43%</u>

FY2015

Athens Regional Library

July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

<i>Expenditures:</i>	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Amount Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% of Budget Expended</u>
<i>Franklin County:</i>				
Outreach	15,000.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	50.00%
Personnel	81,950.00	43,606.86	38,343.14	53.21%
Operating Expenses	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>2,367.97</u>	<u>2,132.03</u>	<u>52.62%</u>
Totals	<u>101,450.00</u>	<u>53,474.83</u>	<u>47,975.17</u>	<u>52.71%</u>
<i>Madison County:</i>				
Outreach	14,900.00	7,450.00	7,450.00	50.00%
Personnel	165,141.00	81,159.51	83,981.49	49.15%
Operating Expenses	<u>36,807.00</u>	<u>16,072.24</u>	<u>20,734.76</u>	<u>43.67%</u>
Totals	<u>216,848.00</u>	<u>104,681.75</u>	<u>112,166.25</u>	<u>48.27%</u>
<i>Oconee County:</i>				
Outreach	23,000.00	11,500.00	11,500.00	50.00%
Personnel	410,878.00	201,971.98	208,906.02	49.16%
Operating Expenses	<u>35,735.00</u>	<u>13,570.53</u>	<u>22,164.47</u>	<u>37.98%</u>
Totals	<u>469,613.00</u>	<u>227,042.51</u>	<u>242,570.49</u>	<u>48.35%</u>
<i>Oglethorpe County:</i>				
Outreach	10,500.00	5,250.00	5,250.00	50.00%
Personnel	70,838.00	37,321.91	33,516.09	52.69%
Operating Expenses	<u>6,824.00</u>	<u>3,700.04</u>	<u>3,123.96</u>	<u>54.22%</u>
Totals	<u>88,162.00</u>	<u>46,271.95</u>	<u>41,890.05</u>	<u>52.49%</u>
TOTALS	<u>3,711,144.11</u>	<u>1,746,460.11</u>	<u>1,964,684.00</u>	<u>47.06%</u>

FY2015
Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Revenue:	Budget Amount	Amount Received	Balance	% of Budget Received
<u>Regional:</u>				
Interest	4,000.00	762.21	3,237.79	19.06%
Regional Fees	-	5,545.60	(5,545.60)	
Personnel	538,409.01	269,204.51	269,204.51	50.00%
Materials	23,012.10	11,506.05	11,506.05	50.00%
System Services Grant/Outreach	211,874.00	105,937.00	105,937.00	50.00%
Talking Book Center	124,620.00	62,310.00	62,310.00	50.00%
	<u>901,915.11</u>	<u>455,265.37</u>	<u>446,649.75</u>	<u>50.48%</u>
<u>Athens-Clarke County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	1,759,419.00	879,709.50	879,709.50	50.00%
City of Winterville	18,000.00	-	18,000.00	0.00%
Fines and Fees	98,075.00	44,920.77	53,154.23	45.80%
Transfer	51,662.00	-	51,662.00	0.00%
Interest	6,000.00	1,267.54	4,732.46	21.13%
Totals	<u>1,933,156.00</u>	<u>925,897.81</u>	<u>1,007,258.19</u>	<u>47.90%</u>
<u>Franklin County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	32,500.00	17,950.12	14,549.88	55.23%
Board of Education	18,225.00	18,225.00	-	100.00%
Cities of Lavonia, Royston, Canon Carnesville & Franklin Springs	-	-	-	
	31,100.00	11,000.00	20,100.00	35.37%
Transfer from Reserve	8,225.00	-	8,225.00	
Fines and Fees	11,400.00	6,685.86	4,714.14	58.65%
Totals	<u>101,450.00</u>	<u>53,860.98</u>	<u>47,589.02</u>	<u>53.09%</u>
<u>Madison County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	197,440.00	98,720.00	98,720.00	50.00%
Fines, Fees and Copy Machines	19,408.00	10,014.53	9,393.47	51.60%
Totals	<u>216,848.00</u>	<u>108,734.53</u>	<u>108,113.47</u>	<u>50.14%</u>

Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014

Revenue:	Budget Amount	Amount Received	Balance	% of Budget Received
<u>Oconee County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	369,200.00	184,600.00	184,600.00	50.00%
Board of Education	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Watkinsville	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Bogart	6,500.00	-	6,500.00	0.00%
Transfer from Reserve	25,413.00	-	25,413.00	0.00%
Fines and Fees	33,500.00	17,217.31	16,282.69	51.39%
Totals	469,613.00	236,817.31	232,795.69	50.43%
<u>Oglethorpe County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	56,059.86	27,890.52	28,169.34	49.75%
Board of Education	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Maxeys	250.00	-	250.00	0.00%
City of Crawford	500.00	500.00	-	100.00%
City of Arnoldsville	2,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	50.00%
Ctiy of Lexington	500.00	-	500.00	0.00%
Transfer from Reserve	2,552.14	-	2,552.14	0.00%
Fines, Fees and Copy Money	11,000.00	5,515.26	5,484.74	50.14%
Meeting Room	300.00	155.00	145.00	51.67%
Totals	88,162.00	50,060.78	38,101.22	56.78%
GRAND TOTALS	3,711,144.11	1,830,636.78	1,880,507.34	49.33%

Athens Regional Library Outside Grants FY14/15

Grantor	Grant Description	Amount
ACCL Endowment	ACCL Materials Grant	25,000.00
Athens Rotary Club	ACCL Materials	680.00
Athfest Music grant	New children's music grant	1,200.00
Better World Books	ACCL Gift Materials	5,700.88
Bogart City Materials Grant	Bogart Materials	10,000.00
E-Rate	ARLS Educational Discount on all telephone	11,518.00
State Technology Broadband Initiative	Broadband for ARLS	65,000.00
Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library	ACCL Wish List	23,000.00
Friends of the Lavonia Library	Lavonia Materials	3,832.12
Friends of the Madison County Library	Madison County Wishlist	1,215.00
Friends of the Royston Library	Royston Materials	2,079.00
Friends Staff Development Day	funds for Staff Development Day	800.00
Institute of Museum and Library Science	ACCL Baby Boomers Technology Grant Year	160,035.00
LSTA PRIME TIME year 2	Hispanic Program	11,250.00
Oconee County Friends of the Library	Watkinsville Materials	26,433.47
Oglethorpe County Friends of the Library	Oglethorpe County Materials	3,681.21
State Major and Renovation Grant	Royston, Oglethorpe and ACCL	63,828.00
Plumb Creek Foundation	ACCL Summer Reading Club	750.00
State of Georgia Financing Commission	Lavonia Grant	13,750.00
Summer Reading Club Local Donations	Summer Reading Club	4,800.00
TOTAL		434,552.68

Director's Report for January 2015

1. Varsity Hot Dog Day will be January 29 at the State Capitol from 11-2. If you can attend, we would love to have you come and advocate for libraries. This year, we will be promoting the Bogart construction project – local funds are available and ready to go; materials grant [it dropped 6 years ago from 65 cents per capita to less than 5 cents this year]; and the MRR funds for both building repair and computers. We almost don't need to justify these things—they are so obvious, but we do need to remind the elected officials that people continue to read BOOKS, they continue to use computers and other electronic resources, and our buildings need repairs. I have asked our PR staff to work on a display to respond to the comments about the need for new books—and to find a way to communicate with legislators about that need. We hope to launch this in coming weeks, ask patrons to send a short postcard [we'll deliver via bulk mail] pushing for materials funds.
2. The one change that may take place this year with the budget will not be confirmed until May, but we do anticipate that the health benefits cost may increase another \$100 per month per eligible employee. As you know, the law changed last year to say that an employee must work 30 hours per week to qualify for health benefits—we had 4 employees regionwide who worked more than 25 but less than 30 hours; they now all have been increased to 30 hours in order to continue their benefits. Teacher's Retirement benefits are mandatory and this system begins at 20 hours per week and we may also anticipate an increase by a very small amount. We no longer have anyone who falls into the 20-29 hour per week category.
3. Personnel. Long time regional employees Clare Auwarter [who was our Extension Librarian and most recently worked with the Friends]; Laura Carter, Genealogy and Reference Librarian; and Diane Williams, Acquisitions Librarian for Fiction for Region, have all retired leading to many shifts in staffing. We also have had some turn-over in other positions. Toby Mayfield is now the Circulation Manager in Athens after leaving the Winterville Library and Austin Jenkins has moved from Lexington to Winterville. Longtime Royston assistant, Annette Sims has left. As always, turn-over gives us an opportunity to make some changes in the program and to look at staff deployment. One of the concerns for the future will be getting salaries to an adequate level to be able to retain more staff. While turn-over is expected, we also want to offer a living wage. Retention, retraining, and development of leadership skills is critical to the future.
4. Gun control. We continue to tell Legislators that we don't want to interfere with carry legislation but we oppose guns in children's areas. This may be considered during the legislative session, but I've been advised that this won't be a year to push the issue. However, I have spoken at length with every legislator about it privately and even the most hard core advocate agrees at least on that issue.
5. Talking Books Center. Our Talking Books Center will officially become an Outreach Center in July. This means we will still be available to participate in festivals and to promote services to the blind and physically handicapped, but we will be limited in some of the services we provide. We dismantled our collection during the construction phase, so we have only a small basic

collection of talking books, mostly in digital format, some reading machines, and a small collection of other materials. One of my favorite collection items is the bi-folkal collection which is designed to stimulate memory and conversation. Our staff is always glad to meet people who qualify for talking books or who serve them, so give us a call!

6. I have asked GPLS to offer a training session on making the effective “ask” of Commissioners and other funders in the coming month. I am hopeful that they can get this on the schedule and will offer such a program here. We need to try new approaches to requesting funds—what we have been doing doesn’t seem to be working! If we can get this scheduled, I’ll let you know.

I know there are many great things going on in our region—the annual report demonstrates this and our customer satisfaction survey reflects it as well. We want to continue to build staff service attitudes, offer exemplary programming activities, and promote reading! This quarter, let’s focus on legislative issues, promote 1000 Books Before Kindergarten, and welcoming our new Director!

I’ve had a great 41+ years, enjoyed terrific staff and board support, and I’m looking forward to seeing where our libraries can go in the next 20 years! Thank you all.

Outreach Service Areas

Effective January 01, 2015; July 1, 2015 NEGATBC closes but continues with area outreach.

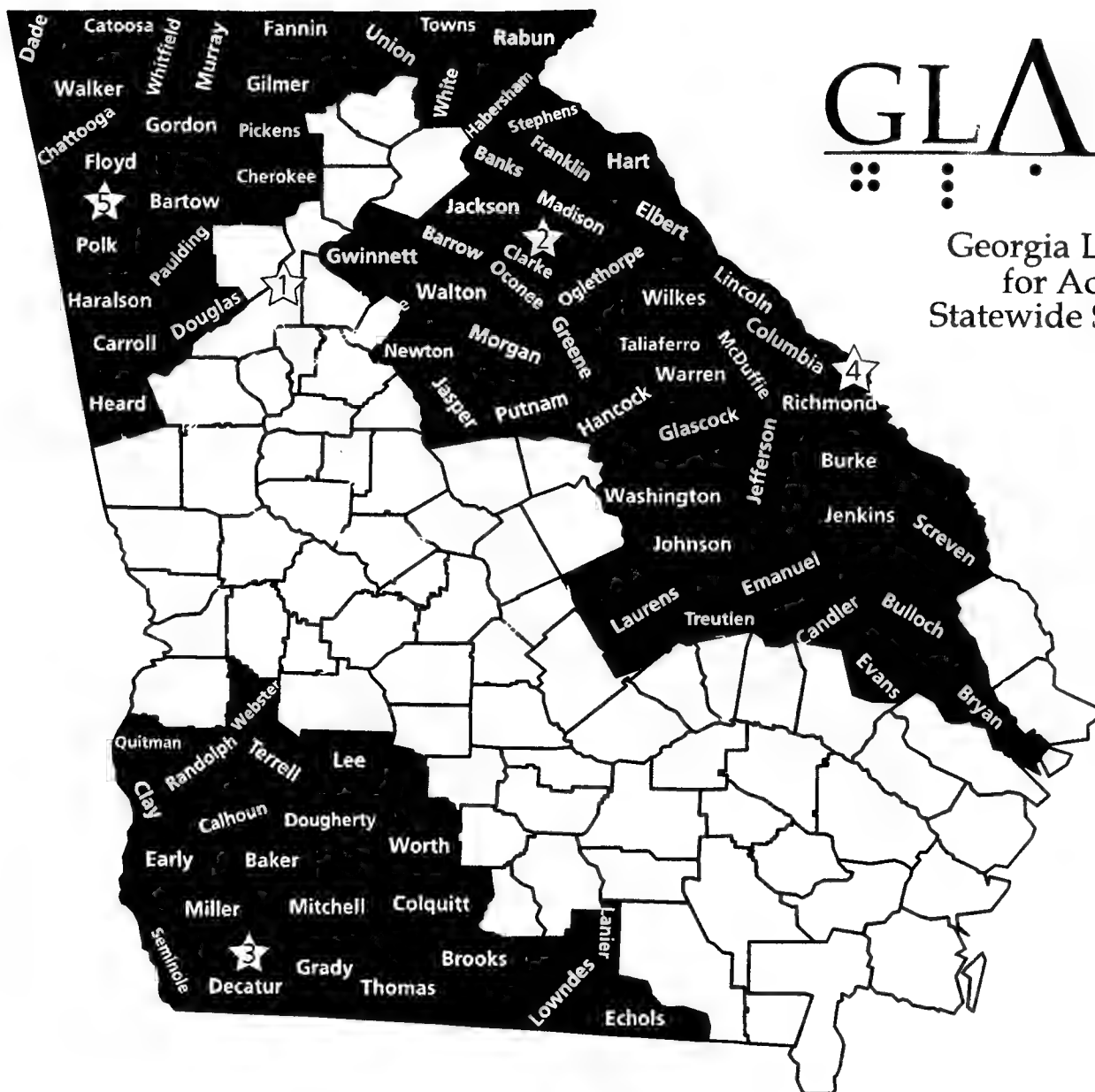
Patron support is provided by NEGATBC , toll-free 855.583.2822

NEGATBC, operated from Athens Regional Library, provides patron and outreach services to the following public library systems:

- Athens Regional Library System
- Elbert County Public Library
- Gwinnett County Public Library
- Hart County Library System
- Newton County Library System
- Northeast Georgia Regional Library
- Piedmont Regional Library System
- Uncle Remus Regional Library System

NEGATBC, operated from Athens Regional Library, provides patron and outreach services to the following counties:

- Banks
- Barrow
- Clarke
- Elbert
- Franklin
- Greene
- Gwinnett
- Habersham
- Hancock
- Hart
- Jackson
- Jasper
- Madison
- Morgan
- Newton
- Oconee
- Oglethorpe
- Putnam
- Rabun
- Stephens
- Walton
- White



GLASS

Georgia Libraries
for Accessible
Statewide Services

☆ **AMLAS**
Atlanta Metro Library
for Accessible Services

☆ **NEGATBC**
Northeast Georgia
Talking Book Center

☆ **SWGLAS**
Southwest Georgia Library
for Accessible Services

☆ Outreach services provided by
Augusta-Richmond County Library System

☆ Outreach services provided by
Sara Hightower Regional Library



**GEORGIA PUBLIC
LIBRARY SERVICE**

A Unit of the University System of Georgia
1800 Century Place, Suite 150
Atlanta, GA 30345-4304
404.235.7200 404.235.7201 fax

The GLASS network of Talking Book libraries and outreach centers is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services to Georgia Public Library Service under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act.

Effective 1/1-6/30/2015

Informational Overview of Georgia's Public Libraries

System	Director	Email	Facilities	HQ	Address	City, State Zip	Phone	County(ies)	House District	Representative(s)	Senate District	Sensor(s)
Regional Library System	Kathryn Arns	karns@arnslib.org	13	Albany-Clerks County Library	2025 Saxon Street	Albany, GA 31706-4331	706.411.3606	Clarke, Franklin, Madison, Oconee, Spalding Counties	32, 33, 37, 118, 119, 120	Sam Powell (R), Tom McCall (D), Regina Quashie (R), Spencer Foy (D), Chuck Williams (D), Mike Chatham (R)	24, 46, 47, 50	Art Jackson (D), Bill Cooney (R), Frank Ginn (R), John Wilkerson (R)
Atlanta-DeKalb County Library System	Anne Holmes	anne.holmes@atmorecountysga.gov	35	Central Library	1 Margaret Mitchell Sq	Atlanta, GA 30303-1089	404.774-5788	Fulton	22, 40, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70	Edward Anderson (R), Teresa Amodeo (D), "Yale" Noble Thomas (D), Pat Garbarino (R), Jennifer Bell (D), Margaret A. Clark (R), Sasha Watkins (D), Roger Ross (D), LeRoy Jones (R), Ronn Maltry (D), Vigi Hadd (D), Sharon Best-Teagler (R), Mike Jacobs (D), Tom Rogers (D)	6, 21, 26, 32, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40, 49, 56	Donna Harris (R), Brandon Beach (R), Mike Crane (R), Jason Hill (R), Victor Foy (D), John Wilkerson (R), Sam Newark (D), Horacio Tate (R), Michael Foy (D), Jesse Miller (R), David Butler (R), Jon Albano (R)
Augusta-Richmond County Library System	Darlene Price	price@auglib.org	6	Augusta-Richmond County Public Library	803 Tellico Street	Augusta, GA 30901	706.741-2600	Richmond	123, 124, 125, 126, 127	Sam Myers (R), Henry "Wayne" Howard (D), Larnett Swain (D), Gloria Francis (R), Brian Potts (R)	22, 21	Harold Davis (D), Jesse Stowe (R)
Carroll County Library System	Carleen Sims	carleen@carrolllib.org	3	Carroll County Main Street Library	402 West Main Street	Gatensville, GA 30335-1460	706.442-4200	Barrow	14, 15, 16	Chris Coleman (R), Paul Bellfield (R), Tracy Kelly (R)	16, 52	Bruce Thompson (R), Chuck Huelscher (R)
Cherokee County Library System	Wendy L. Brown	wendy@cherokee.lib.ga.us	3	Main Street Library	300 West Main Street	Waynesville, GA 30187-1149	706.976-5778	Cherokee, Fannin, Hall, Wilkes	91, 124, 125, 126	Michael Smith (D), Melvin Chandler (R), Barry Hemminger (R), Mark Jackson (D)	22, 24	Jack Stoen (R), Ed Jackson (D)
Cherokee County Library System	Linda Harrison	linda@cherokee.lib.ga.us	3	Cherokee County Library	404 Hickory Road	Waynesville, GA 30187-1149	706.976-5778	Cherokee	91, 124, 125, 126	Michael Smith (D), Melvin Chandler (R), Barry Hemminger (R), Mark Jackson (D)	22, 24	Jack Stoen (R), Ed Jackson (D)
Cherokee County Library System	Charles Chalmers	charles@cherokee.lib.ga.us	3	Catoosa County Library at Benton Plains Campus	100 Catoosa Circle	Parkway, GA 30761	706.976-5778	Cherokee	91, 124, 125, 126	Michael Smith (D), Melvin Chandler (R), Barry Hemminger (R), Mark Jackson (D)	22, 24	Jack Stoen (R), Ed Jackson (D)
Cherokee County Library System	John Chalmers	john@cherokee.lib.ga.us	3	Columbus County Library	3000 Main Street	Columbus, GA 31906	706.741-2600	Cherokee, Madison, Morgan, Twiggs	133, 134, 135, 137, 138, 139	John David Pridgen (D), Charles Williams (R), George Myers (D), Carolyn Hughes (D), Debbie Burdette (R), Mike Chatham (R), Gerald J. Craven (R)	13, 15, 29	Freddie Powell (R), Ed Harrison (D), Joshua McClean (R)
Cherokee County Library System	John Chalmers	john@cherokee.lib.ga.us	3	Cherokee County Library	300 Main Street	Waynesville, GA 30187-1149	706.976-5778	Cherokee	91, 124, 125, 126	Michael Smith (D), Melvin Chandler (R), Barry Hemminger (R), Mark Jackson (D)	22, 24	Jack Stoen (R), Ed Jackson (D)
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Cherokee County Library System	John Chalmers	john@cherokee.lib.ga.us	3	Cherokee								

Informational Overview of Georgia's Public Libraries

Statewide Regional Library System	Jennifer Durham	jedur@erjinfo	6	Statewide-Bulloch County Library	124 South Main Street	Statesboro, GA 30458-5246	312 764-1241	Bellows, Bryan, Crawford, Emmert, Farris	357, 158, 159, 160, 164	Deloris Dutton (R), Bunch Parrish (R), Jan G. Burns (R), Jan Tankersley (R), Ren Stephens (R)	1, 4, 23	Buddy Carter (R), Jack Hill (R), Irene Stowe (R)
Cherokee County Public Library System	Nancy Hinchey	nancy@erjinfo.org	6	Thomas County Public Library	203 North Madison Street	Thomasville, GA 31782-8414	779 226-5282	Thomas	172, 173, 175	Sam Vaggon (R), Charles G. Taylor (R), Amy Caplan (R)	8, 11	Tom Gordon (R), Oscar Burke (R)
DeKalb County Library System	Deana Viny	deana@erjinfo.org	8	Wayne County Library	2801 S. Mahogany St.	Jessie, GA 31546	912-427-2500	Brantley, Candice, Chutkan, Long, Anderson, Wayne	357, 187, 174, 176, 180	Deloris Dutton (R), Jeff Chapman (R), Eric Black (R), Chad Nimner (R), Jason Spencer (R)	3, 7, 13	William T. Ligon, Jr. (R), Tyler Harper (R), Torrence Williams (R)
Troup-Harris Regional Library System	Kath Schuermann	kschuermann@erjinfo.org	3	LaGrange Memorial Library	115 Alfred Street	LaGrange, GA 30240-3043	404-882-7784	Harris, Troup	68, 132, 133, 134, 137	Pamela Nix (R), Carl Von Epps (R), John David Paszold (R), Richard H. Smith (R), Debbie Buckner (R)	26, 29	Mike Crane (R), Joshua McRae (R)
Seven Lakes Library System	Stephen Houser	shouser@erjinfo.org	2	Mary Vinsen Memorial Library	351 South Jefferson Street	Hillsboro, GA 31051	478-421-0577	Rahms	145	E. Carter "Butsy" Kidd (R)	25	Burt Rippey (R)
Udine Remick Regional Library System	Steve Schaefer	sschaefer@udremick.org	9	Morgan County Library	1121 East Avenue	Madison, GA 30650	706-310-4894	Greene, Herbert, Jasper, Morgan, Putnam, Wagoner	112, 114, 135, 140, 128, 129, 345	Shag Hix (R), Tom Kirby (R), Bruce Williamson (R), Mickey Charnoff (R), Mark Jackson (R), Susan Holmes (R), E. Carter "Butsy" Kidd (R)	25, 26, 46	Burt Rippey (R), David Lucas (R), Bill Conner (R)
West Georgia Regional Library System	Hon. Tewksbury	tw@erjinfo.org	17	Hess Lomason Memorial Library	220 Rome Street	Carrollton, GA 30217-3046	770-834-8711	Carroll, Douglas, Harrison, Heard, Paulding	16, 17, 18, 19, 61, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70	Tray Kelley (R), Howard Maxwell (R), Kevin Cooke (R), Paulette Bakerstrom (R), Roger Bruce (R), Latham Jones (R), Sharon Beasley Tague (R), Kimberly Alexander (R), Mitch Greaney (R), Dustin Higginson (R), Sandy Pitt (R), Lynn Smith (R)	28, 30, 31, 35	Mike Crane (R), Mike Dugan (R), Bill Heath (R), Donzella James (R)
Worth County Library System	Leph Wiley	lw@erjinfo.org	1	Sylvester-Margaret Jones Library	205 Pope Street	Suwanee, GA 31773	228-770-2096	Worth	152	Ed Rynders (R)	19	John Crosby (R)

Interim Directors

Community Centered: 23 Reasons Why Your Library Is the Most Important Place in Town

by Julie Biando Edwards, Melissa S. Rauseo, & Kelley Rae Unger on April 30, 2013

As librarians, we know the value of our community services, and our patrons appreciate their importance as well. But in an increasingly digital world, we see the role of libraries as community and cultural centers at times undervalued, and occasionally under fire. When shrinking municipal budgets combine with the nonstop technological revolution, public library services that focus on building community face-to-face, inspiring and educating patrons about art, literature, and music, and helping patrons engage in civil discourse can seem quaint. But it is precisely those shrinking budgets and the onslaught of technologically mediated life that make public libraries' cultural and community offerings more important than ever.

David Morris wrote a stirring piece last May in which he argues for the value that public libraries bring to their communities.¹ More than just books and banks of computers, libraries are still places where individuals gather to explore, interact, and imagine. We decided to take a look at some of the specific ways in which libraries add value to our communities and serve as cultural centers for our patrons. We separated library services into five very broad categories: (1) libraries as community builders, (2) libraries as community centers for diverse populations, (3) libraries as centers for the arts, (4) libraries as universities, and (5) libraries as champions of youth. Under each of these we highlighted specific ways in which libraries serve in these capacities, and included examples of unique or exemplary library services that support the notion that libraries are about more than just information.

In building this list we had two goals. First, we wanted to highlight some of the incredible work in which libraries are engaged. From tiny public libraries to huge city institutions with multiple branches, libraries across the United States are building community and supporting local culture in exciting ways. Take a look, the examples are inspiring. Hopefully, they will encourage librarians interested in community services and cultural outreach to make connections with each other, share ideas, and build partnerships. We believe that reading these examples will spark some new ideas for public librarians and prompt them to try a new program or service, or to expand upon the great services that are already in place at their libraries. Former Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, a strong supporter of libraries as community builders, addressed librarians saying, “Unless you are out there changing neighborhoods, you are not completing the work you are to do.”² Strengthening neighborhoods and championing the cultural lives of communities are big responsibilities. We think librarians are up to the challenge.

Second, we hope that this list will not only inspire librarians to become more active in creating services and programs that are community focused, but will give them some tools with which to advocate on behalf of public libraries. As we said, we all know the value of our libraries. It’s time to take the value we add and use that to advocate for better funding and more resources. Those who argue that libraries are becoming obsolete don’t know what public libraries do in the twenty-first century. We hope you use the examples that follow to help educate stakeholders, making them aware that libraries are more than books and technology. Libraries build citizens. They educate individuals and foster thoughtful communities. They are essential components of communities—worth fighting for and worth funding. Hopefully, the presentation of these examples to city governments, library boards, and the community at large will help us demonstrate our worth and become increasingly valued partners in our communities.

Libraries as Community Builders

1. Libraries help revitalize struggling or depressed neighborhoods and downtowns.

- Place-based economic development stresses the importance of offering attractive, functional, and community-based places, such as libraries, in town squares and depressed neighborhoods. Like a major department

store in a mall, libraries attract large numbers of people, creating economic opportunities for a myriad of businesses and organizations in the surrounding area. Large cities (such as Chicago³), medium-sized ones (Hudson, Ohio), and even small towns (Putney, Vermont) have successfully transformed their libraries into the hubs of vibrant neighborhoods.⁴

2. Libraries are important partners in sustainability.

- As key municipal agencies, and focal points for community education, libraries are major players in creating livable, environmentally friendly cities and towns. The Urban Libraries Council released a report detailing the unique ways in which libraries can further sustainability at the local level.⁵ Beyond ensuring that library construction projects consider environmental impact, libraries can take a lead in supporting local foods and artisans, like the Peabody (Mass.) Institute Library's (PIL) partnering with local businesses to pioneer a farmers' market in their courtyard, or the Richmond (Calif.) Public Library's (RPL) seed lending library which "nurtures locally-adapted plant varieties, and fosters community resilience, self-reliance and a culture of sharing."⁶

3. Libraries' special collections grow out of specific community needs.

- In addition to RPL's seed lending library, there are other examples of libraries that provide circulating collections of everything from cake pans to fishing rods to bike locks. The Iowa City (Iowa) Public Library circulates framed posters and original artwork through its Art-to-Go collection.⁷ The Temescal Branch of the Oakland (Calif.) Public Library literally builds the community through its Tool Lending Library, which was created in 1991 to help rebuilding efforts after a disaster.⁸ Libraries that start such unique collections show how locally responsive and flexible a truly community-centered library can be.

4. Archives preserve historic artifacts, oral histories, digital history projects, and monographs relevant to the community, including minority groups.

- Communities lucky enough to have archivists have a great advantage when it comes to organizing historical records and artifacts. An organized archive is a place where people can research genealogy and immigration history, do environmental research, and more. An archivist is an advocate for preservation who, among other things, coordinates the

restoration of maps and paintings, the digitization of vital records, and the creation of oral history projects. With projects like the Mass. Memories Road Show⁹ and the Veterans History Project,¹⁰ evidence of the importance of archives is everywhere.

5. Libraries are places where people come to know themselves and their communities.

- In the words of Robert Putnam, “People may go to the library looking mainly for information, but they find each other there.”¹¹ New moms connect at baby story-times; elderly people, often facing difficult life transitions, attend events and find that they make new friends; teenagers meet up in libraries’ teen spaces after school; and readers discuss current events in the periodicals room. In libraries, community-building connections are happening all the time.

6. Libraries serve as catalysts for addressing social problems.

- Public librarians know their communities firsthand, and are often the first to recognize a pressing local need, simply because they interact on a daily basis with patrons from all walks of life. This puts libraries and librarians in the best position not only to bring local issues to municipal governments and social agencies, but also to partner with local governments and agencies to address the needs of a community. PIL’s “Library Lunches,”¹² part of the Summer Food Service Program, is a compelling example of how a library recognized a social need, brought it to the attention of the community, and partnered with local agencies to address an important issue—how to provide meals for hundreds of hungry kids.

7. Libraries, which champion, promote, and reflect important democratic values, are a part of the community’s political life.

- Libraries can, should, and do play an important role in the political life of a community. From Banned Books Week displays,¹³ which combat the perils of school and community censorship efforts, to programs such as the September Project,¹⁴ which gathers community members and encourages them to talk about issues of freedom, justice, and democracy, libraries are pivotal in encouraging informed political involvement. Libraries also help citizens learn how to become advocates for themselves and their communities.

8. Library buildings as architectural structures are culturally relevant.

- From gorgeous old Carnegie buildings to modern marvels like the Seattle Public Library, library buildings are rich in symbolism and meaning. Whether it is architecturally grand or the simplest of rooms tucked into a city government building, the physical space of the library communicates to the public our underlying values: that libraries, information, and shared community space matter, something that the American Library Association (ALA) recognizes each year with its Library Design Showcase in American Libraries.¹⁵
- 9. Libraries provide important business resources, especially for small local businesses.**
- With the recent collapse of many big corporations, it has become more widely acknowledged that small businesses provide most of the new jobs in our current economy. Libraries have a long history of serving local entrepreneurs and businesses, but some, like the District of Columbia Public Libraries (DCPL), are taking their business services to a new level. The Urban Libraries Council report, “Making Cities Stronger,” describes several library initiatives, including DCPL’s Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC) project. Located at the main branch library, e-BIC includes not only business resources, but also a state-of-the-art video conference room, full-time librarian, and staff-training workshops.¹⁶

Libraries as Community Centers for Diverse Populations

- 1. Libraries help to ensure that non-English speakers see themselves represented in their communities.**

Multilingual library websites, like those at the San Francisco¹⁷ and Queens (N.Y.) public libraries,¹⁸ are just one of the ways in which libraries help non-English speakers see themselves represented in their communities. Public libraries often collect books in languages other than English, incorporate appropriate signage, and hire librarians and staff members who are multilingual. Additionally, some libraries offer bilingual book clubs.¹⁹ Services like these help all community members recognize the depth of diversity that exists in their communities.

2. Libraries provide immigrants with helpful information about, and opportunities to connect with, their new communities.

Not only are libraries gateways to the community, they provide a place where new immigrants and their families can connect with resources, learn new skills, and meet new people. The San Diego Public Library offers a specific webpage highlighting area and library services for new Americans.²⁰ The New York Public Library (NYPL) offers English As a Second Language (ESL) classes, provides citizenship information, and celebrates Immigrant Heritage Week.²¹ PLA offers an online learning module for librarians interested in providing new or improved services to new immigrants.²² Services like these make libraries essential for new immigrants, as they provide services and information about their new community and government while at the same time meeting the needs of these new patrons in an accessible and appropriate way.

3. Libraries provide information, resources, and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersexed, and questioning (LGBTIQ) patrons.

For gay teens, libraries are much-needed safe spaces and supportive librarians are allies and mentors. NYPL offers programs for LGBTIQ adults and teens,²³ including an annual anti-prom designed for high school students who may not feel welcomed and included at a traditional school-based prom. The NYPL also maintains a blog that connects readers with LGBTIQ resources and information.²⁴

4. Libraries provide information, resources, and support for patrons with disabilities. Recognizing that diversity isn't just about ethnicity, language, or culture, public libraries provide unique and adaptable spaces and services for patrons with disabilities.

In 2001, ALA adopted a policy on library services for people with disabilities,²⁵ and many libraries, including the Denver²⁶ and Chicago²⁷ public libraries, offer a variety of tools and services, from software and equipment to special collections and homebound programs. The Nashville (Tenn.) Public Library has "several staff members fluent in American Sign Language."²⁸

Going one step further, some libraries develop creative programs to partner with patrons with disabilities. For example, PIL's Bookworm Café,²⁹ a partnership with a high school life skills program, allows the library to offer a morning coffee cart to patrons, while providing valuable work experience for students with special needs.

Libraries as Centers for the Arts

1. **Libraries provide access to nonmainstream points of view and give voice to local artists. Public libraries strive to provide collections and services that represent various points of view, and often work closely with local artists to do so.**

In many communities, local authors seek out public libraries as places to promote and make their new books available, and library services like Overdrive³⁰ allow local musicians to upload and distribute their work. From the art gallery at the Newton Free Library³¹ in Massachusetts to NYPL's collection of zines,³² local arts abound in public libraries.

2. **Libraries provide opportunities for free classes that encourage art appreciation as well as art participation.**

Providing opportunities for children and adults alike, library arts programs range from the simplest of crafts to the finest of fine arts. Picturing America programs,³³ with their focus on American art and art history, creative writing workshops, and painting classes, are just a few examples of the ways that libraries offer a wealth of opportunities to explore and understand art.

3. **Libraries provide access to the arts for all, not just those who can afford them.**

As Keith Richards said, "The public library is the great equalizer."³⁴ Despite the rising costs of concert and theater tickets, public library events (including concerts, author visits, and gallery displays) are often offered free of charge, enabling people of any income level to attend. In addition, library book groups allow people to explore and discuss the literary arts, and the Great Stories Club³⁵ introduce at-risk youth to literature. The best part: it's all free and open to the public.

Libraries as Universities

1. **Libraries serve as the "people's university."**

In a time when education is increasingly expensive, public libraries provide information and educational opportunities free for all people, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Offered by libraries across the country, ALA's Let's Talk about It programs³⁶ are wonderful examples of scholar-facilitated learning opportunities in libraries. In addition, many libraries present classes

and discussion programs, and some even provide online continuing education courses such as the Universal Class database.³⁷

2. **Libraries offer opportunities for remote access, making it possible for those who can't get to the library to still access the library's cultural and educational offerings.**

In addition to bookmobiles and databases, many libraries go above and beyond to make their services available to everyone. Polk County (Fla.) Library System offers B-Mail,³⁸ a free book-by-mail delivery service, and in Zimbabwe donkey-drawn carts deliver library services to remote villages.³⁹

3. **Libraries go beyond providing content to enabling patrons to create their own content.**

Librarians know that patrons aren't just information consumers, they're information producers. Patrons use the library to gain knowledge in order to create their own new and independent works. Increasing numbers of libraries provide spaces and services that meet the needs of people who want to learn how to edit Wikipedia, set up blogs or podcasts, create their own zines, and so much more. Many libraries offer art or writing workshops and groups, and some provide music practice rooms for patrons. Programs like ImaginOn⁴⁰ in Charlotte (N.C.) provide exciting models that take community partnership, creativity, and creation to a new level.

4. **Libraries promote civil discourse.**

The decline of civil discourse stems in part from the fact that it is so easy for people to watch news about, buy products from, and engage—in both the virtual and real worlds—only with those of similar backgrounds and ideologies. Public libraries, through such programs as The Human Library⁴¹ and Socrates Café,⁴² can help build small communities of difference that encourage people to interact with and learn from each other through dialogue. By both actively promoting civil discourse through these programs, and by modeling and upholding the principles of free inquiry and expression for all, libraries help individuals rediscover the importance of and increased need for civil discourse in American life.

Libraries as Champions of Youth

1. Libraries teach teens important life skills.

The skills that teens pick up from teen advisory boards, volunteer opportunities, programs, and jobs can prepare them for success in high school, college, and the workforce. Brooklyn Public Library's Multicultural Internship Program provides teens with positive work experiences, while also providing the library with a diverse staff that more closely mirrors the demographics of its community.⁴³

2. Free tutoring, homework help programs, and summer reading programs for kids and teens help bridge the economic divide that impacts students' academic performance.

The cost of hiring a private tutor is well beyond what many library patrons can afford, so libraries offer homework help and tutoring online, by phone, in person, and even through social media and homework apps.⁴⁴ Annual summer reading programs also have a positive impact on student performance and, according to a 2010 study conducted by Dominican University's Graduate School of Library and Information Science, students' reading skills get a boost from these popular nationwide events.⁴⁵

3. Libraries are important partners in child development.

Through library collections, programs, and physical spaces, children learn to share, to be engaged in their communities, to participate in the arts, and to explore their immediate world and the world at large. There are surely endless examples of innovative library services for children, including the Middle Country Public Library's (in Centereach, N.Y.) Nature Explorium, which engages children in learning about the natural world.⁴⁶

These examples are just a few of the many amazing things that public libraries around the United States (and the world) are doing to build and maintain strong community connections. We encourage you to try some of these ideas in your own libraries, and we hope that these ideas will help you be better able to convince your community leaders of the important role that public libraries play in communities large and small.

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Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Retiring director talks about past, future of Athens library

By Lee Shearer

When Kathryn Ames became director of the Athens public library in 1986, it was located in the relatively small building on Dougherty Street in downtown Athens that now houses Athens-Clarke County's planning department.

The library's annual circulation figure then was about 285,000 - not separate books, but the number of times someone checked a book out of the library to take home to read.

As Ames prepares to step down as the longest-serving director of the Athens Regional Library System, things have changed quite a bit. Library patrons checked out printed books about 1.4 million times last year. Patrons checked out an eBook about 600,000 times, and when you add DVDs, CDs and other items borrowed from the library - free of charge, because it's the public library - the library's circulation is about 10 times what it was when Ames began. And that's not even counting the 2 million log-ins on the library's public computers each year.

"People tell us that the traditional library is dead, but you can see from the numbers it's not," Ames said in a recent interview as she talked about the past and the future of the library now on Baxter Street.

Ames is actually already retired, but is staying on part-time until a new library director is hired. She began working in the library in 1973, soon after she moved here after husband Glenn took a job with the University of Georgia.

"We'd (she and her children) stop at the library to pick up books to read at the laundromat, and one day, I thought it would be good to have a washing machine. That very day, the assistant director announced she was getting married and moving to Clemson," Ames said.

Looking at the role of libraries in their communities, Ames said, "Service to families is probably the most important thing we do. We've always had very strong children's programs," Ames said. "There's nothing that beats reading a picture book to a toddler or seeing (a youngster) pick up a book on his own."

The library no longer has people working at a desk specifically to check out or check in books — machines do that work now. That change has freed librarians to help patrons in other ways, Ames said.

“Our staff has been really good about adapting to change and learning new skills,” she said. “They’ve really taken to learning technology. We’ve put a lot into training, and it’s paying off.”

But the library has lost a few good things along with way, like the bookmobile, Ames said.

“We used to be all over the community with the bookmobile,” she said. When it became too expensive to maintain the bookmobile, Ames said, it “really cut back on the kind of outreach we were doing, particularly with elderly and disabled people. We’re still trying to reinvent that kind of service. I don’t know how we’ll do that, but that’s a challenge for the new librarian.

Libraries also face a money crunch, she said. A couple of years ago, the state legislature appropriated 65 cents per person for new library materials, but that funding has been cut to a nickel per person, according to Ames. That’s about \$700 for a rural county like Oglethorpe, and \$6,000 for Athens-Clarke County — not enough to buy a lot of new books.

Athens-Clarke County is lucky, Ames said, because voters have approved spending part of the county’s local option sales tax revenues on library materials. That funding totaled about \$150,000 last year.

Looking to the future, Ames said, “I think there will be a push for more regionalization, working together to find ways to save resources. We buy 95 percent of the same books as the Uncle Remus Regional Library System (headquartered in Madison) or Piedmont (in Winder).”

Ames hopes to see the library pushing out more into the Athens community in the future.

A previous library director used to go knocking on doors in one low-income neighborhood near downtown, seeking out overdue books. She got to know every family in the neighborhood, so she could tell parents things like, “I think Jack needs to be reading more,” Ames said.

“I think we need to get back to that, more personal interaction. I have a new outreach librarian so we can find more ways to reach out to the community,” she said. “I’d like to see us more involved in community issues such as after-school programs, I’d like to see us get more involved in community partnerships, and do more with diversity. I’d like to see us get more involved with public housing, and find ways to reach out to the community.”

Follow education reporter Lee Shearer at www.facebook.com/LeeShearerABH or <https://twitter.com/LeeShearer>.

Fiscal Year 2016
Capital Outlay Request
Georgia Public Library Service

FY 16 Rank	Library System	Project Name	C=Central B=Branch	N=New A=Add.	City	County	State Share	Local Share	Total Project Cost
20-Year Bonds									
1	Three Rivers Regional	Charlton County Public Library	B	A	Folkston	Charlton	\$565,000	\$107,000	\$672,000
2	Dougherty County Public	Northwest Public Library	B	A	Albany	Dougherty	\$2,000,000	\$4,610,000	\$6,610,000
3	Gwinnett County Public	Norcross Branch Library	B	N	Norcross	Gwinnett	\$1,875,000	\$1,075,000	\$2,950,000
4	Cobb County Public	East Marietta Branch	B	N	Marietta	Cobb	\$2,000,000	\$6,640,000	\$8,640,000
5	West Georgia Regional	Villa Rica Library	B	N	Villa Rica	Carroll	\$1,500,000	\$1,215,000	\$2,715,000
6	Uncle Remus Regional	WH Stanton Memorial	B	N	Social Circle	Walton	\$2,000,000	\$1,200,000	\$3,200,000
7	Athens Regional	Bogart Public	B	A	Bogart	Oconee	\$1,755,750	\$955,750	\$2,711,500
8	Troup Harris Regional	Harris County Public Library	B	N	Hamilton	Harris	\$2,000,000	\$2,825,000	\$4,825,000
9	Flint River Regional	Milner Public Library	B	N	Milner	Lamar	\$500,000	\$100,000	\$600,000
10	Kinchafoonee Regional	Quitman County Library	B	N	Georgetown	Quitman	\$1,041,000	\$116,000	\$1,157,000
							\$15,236,750	\$18,843,750	\$34,080,500

5-Year Bonds									
	Various Systems	Major Repair & Renovation	B	A	Various	Various	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$4,000,000
	Various Systems	Computer Replacement	B	A	Various	Various	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$2,000,000
							\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$6,000,000



Athens Regional Library System Evaluation of Regional Library Director

Regional Director's Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: To the right of each statement check the response that best expresses your agreement or disagreement with the statement. Mark only one response for each statement and respond to all statements.

5 = Strongly agree
2 = Disagree

4 = Agree
1 = Strongly disagree

3 = Sometimes agree, sometimes disagree
N/A = Don't know or not applicable

	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Relationship with Regional Library Board. The Director:						
1. Keeps me informed on local, state, and national library issues.						
2. Assists me with reports and other information in making decisions I must make.						
3. Is accessible and returns my telephone calls or emails and is always willing to discuss issues.						
4. Listens to my problems and resolves them promptly and to the best of her ability.						
5. Treats me with dignity and respects my points of view.						
6. Presents matters requiring the board's attention clearly and makes reasonable recommendations.						
7. Implements board policies promptly and effectively for staff and for the public.						
8. Keeps me informed of board training opportunities and provides local board training periodically.						

Relationship with Affiliated Libraries. The Director

9. Is genuinely interested in the success of my local library.						
10. Meets local funding agency officials and talks to them periodically about the library's needs and/or works with local staff to communicate with officials.						
11. Keeps my local library board informed on local, state, and national library issues.						
12. Provides my local library board with information about the actions of the Regional Library						
13. Treats my local library board members with dignity and respects their points of view.						
14. Shows no favoritism to one local library over another.						

	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
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Financial and Plant Management. The Director:

15. Manages the financial resources of the regional library system wisely.						
16. Presents budgets that are realistic and that meet the needs of the local libraries and the public, within the limits of the funds provided by the funding agencies.						
17. Stays abreast of other sources of funding and attempts to find grants and other funds for the library.						
18. Budgets funds or requests funds from the appropriate local funding agencies (owners of the buildings) for the adequate maintenance of library buildings.						
19. Is cognizant of our growing communities and petitions funding agencies for funds for responsive library growth.						

Personnel Management. The Director:

20. Effectively allocates staff to carry out the mission of the library system.						
21. Handles personnel problems before they become board problems.						
22. Sets an example for the staff through professional conduct, high principles such as honesty and integrity, and a business-like approach.						
23. Encourages staff to develop their skills through workshops and other training opportunities.						
24. Promotes an environment of workplace safety.						
25. Promotes the library system through the media and through speaking engagements for herself and other staff members.						
26. Is involved in the community.						
27. Is involved in professional organizations.						
28. Keeps informed about local, state, and national politics and alerts the board to critical issues.						

Long Range Planning and Innovation. The Director:

29. Has a sense of where the library system has been and where it needs to go.						
30. Embraces change and innovation in order to move the library system forward.						
31. Stays up-to-date about library law and related laws and keeps the board informed.						

Comments:

The library director is recommended for: _____ Retention _____ Probation _____ Dismissal

With the following salary adjustment: _____ Increase _____ No Increase

Reviewer's Signature: _____ Date _____

POLICIES FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY STATE GRANTS PROGRAM

Georgia Public Library Service – Revised December 2014

The Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS), a unit of the Board of Regents, University System of Georgia, is responsible for the administration and distribution of state grant funds to public libraries in Georgia, as set forth in the Official Code of Georgia Annotated 20-3-39. State laws governing the operation of public libraries in Georgia are found in O.C.G.A. 20-5-40 – 20-5-59. In order to receive any state, federal or private library grant funds administered by GPLS and/or the benefits of any state administered program or service, a Library System shall meet all of the following Requirements for State Grants.

1.0 Administration and Governance

- 1.1 Library System governing Boards of Trustees shall adopt and maintain a current Collection Development Policy for all libraries within the Library System.
- 1.2 The Library System Director shall ensure the maintenance and quality compliance of all permanent cataloging and acquisition records for Library Materials acquired for or by the Library System.
- 1.3 The Library System governing Board of Trustees shall provide for Basic Library Services and their distribution to the Library System's Service Area.
- 1.4 Library System governing Boards of Trustees shall meet a minimum of 4 times each year and shall maintain at the Headquarters Library the official minutes of all meetings.
- 1.5 Library System governing Boards of Trustees shall adopt and maintain a current written Personnel Policy that is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and requirements.
- 1.6 Each Library System governing Board of Trustees shall adopt and maintain a current Technology Plan.
- 1.7 Each Library System governing Board of Trustees shall adopt and maintain a current Internet Acceptable Use Policy.
- 1.8 Each Library System governing Board of Trustees shall adopt and maintain a current Library System Policy on the Use of Facilities.
- 1.9 The Library System Director shall offer Trustee training for Library System Trustees at least once every three years.
- 1.10 Each Library System Governing Board of Trustees shall review the system's Constitution and Bylaws at least once every four years.

2.0 Types of Grants

2.1 State Reimbursed Public Library Position Grants

- 2.1.1 All grant expenditures, including state-reimbursed positions, must follow state guidelines (eg, personal gifts, alcoholic products, tobacco products, etc). Specific questions should be addressed to the State Grants Liaison at GPLS.
- 2.1.2 Step raises may be suspended if funding is not available through state appropriations. All efforts will be made to maintain applicable steps for all state-paid positions.

2.2 Public Library Materials Grants

- 2.2.1 The Public Library Materials Grant shall be used for the purchase of Library Materials and the cataloging and processing of these materials in accordance with the Library System Collection Development Policy.
- 2.2.2 The Public Library Materials Grant shall not be used for personnel costs.

2.3 Public Library System Services Grants

- 2.3.1 The System Services Grant shall be used for the general operation of library services.
- 2.3.2 The System Services Grant shall not be used for land acquisition or construction.
- 2.3.3 The System Services Grant shall not be used for the supplement of state-reimbursed positions.

2.4 Sub-Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped Grants.

- 2.4.1 The use of the SLBPH grant shall be delineated in the annual contract with GPLS.
- 2.4.2 This grant is provided only to designated library systems.
- 2.5 GPLS reserves the right to make additional grant awards as deemed necessary for the provision of library service in Georgia.

3.0 Financial Management

- 3.1 Library System Boards of Trustees shall adopt and maintain an annual balanced Budget that includes all local, state, federal and private funds. A Budget should be in place prior to the beginning of each Fiscal Year and should be amended as needed throughout the Fiscal Year.
- 3.2 Library System Boards of Trustees may choose to charge an annual non-resident fee for a library card to those who reside outside the Service Area of the Library System. This fee shall entitle non-residents to all Basic Library Services. PINES libraries will follow PINES policies addressing non-resident fees.
- 3.3 Library System Boards of Trustees may choose to recover unique, identifiable costs from customers for specific transactions that exceed basic library services, e.g. photocopying, faxing, fees or deposits charged for the use of library facilities or property in accordance with the Library System Policy on the Use of Library Facilities.
- 3.4 Each Library System Board of Trustees shall ensure the maintenance of all financial records in accordance with the Georgia Public Library Standard Chart of Accounts and in compliance with all GAAP regulations.
- 3.5 The Library System's financial statements shall be subject to an annual audit, when required by a granting authority, or an attestation engagement for agreed-upon procedures, as deemed appropriate by the Library System's Board of Trustees, conducted by a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) currently licensed to practice in the State of Georgia. However, an agreed-upon procedures engagement performed by the BOR/GPLs Internal Auditors will meet the requirement for an attestation engagement if performed on the System. The report shall be directed to the Director and Board of Trustees of the Library System. The Director shall provide a copy of the report to each funding agency. If deemed necessary by GPLS, a corrective action plan must be filed and implemented for any findings or exceptions noted in the report.

4.0 State Grants

- 4.1 The governing Library System Board of Trustees shall have the sole authority to apply for and receive any Grants administered by GPLS.
- 4.2 Governing Library System Boards of Trustees shall annually submit for approval to GPLS an Annual Report and Application for the Renewal of State Grants.
- 4.3 Governing Library System Boards of Trustees shall use State Grants only for stated purposes.
- 4.4 Total local governmental annual operating support for each library system shall be equal to or greater than that of the preceding fiscal year. Failure to sustain this maintenance of effort (MOE) requirement may result in the forfeiture of state grants and state-funded benefits to the library system, including but not limited to PINES and Galileo. Special funds or appropriations (eg. SPLOST, Impact Fees) shall not be calculated as part of MOE.
- 4.5 All new library systems established after July 1, 2010, shall have local committed governmental operating funding (direct appropriation, in-kind or on-behalf) totaling a minimum of \$400,000 annually.
- 4.6 Single-county library systems established on or after July 1, 2010, providing local funding support as described above, shall be allocated one professional position grant. Second and subsequent professional position grants may be allocated when county population achieves increments of 75,000.
- 4.7 In instances where existing library systems or parts of existing library systems (a single county joining a multi-county; single county systems joining together; multi-county library systems joining together or a county from one multi-county system joining another multi-county system) join together to form a new library system, positions shall be allocated according to the currently-approved formula.
- 4.8 The Library System Board of Trustees shall include in the calculation of required Local Governmental Support all auditable funds provided by Local Governmental Authorities, in cash and On-behalf and shall report all funding from Local Governmental Authorities in the Annual Report and Application for the Renewal of Grant Funds.
- 4.9 All revenue from all sources that comes to the library system or a member library is public funds and shall be reported in the Annual Report and Application for the Renewal of Grant Funds and shall be subject to annual audit.
- 4.10 The Library System Board of Trustees shall provide a description of services to be provided to and/or for each county for each of the State Grants. Additionally, a budget showing the use of the System Services Grant and State Materials Grants for each county in the Library System shall be submitted.

5.0 Definitions

Affiliated Library—see Member Library

Annual Operating Funds – Funding provided to the Library System for the general operation of a Library System or appropriated and expended for Library System services by a local governmental agency.

- Funding by way of a direct appropriation (cash)
- Payment of expenses (including payroll and all other budgetary line items) by a Local Governmental Agency acting as the Library System's fiscal agent. (On-behalf)
- Auditable expenditures for library services included in a Local Governmental Agency's line items that include expenses other than those exclusively for library services. (On-behalf)

Annual Report and Application for the Renewal of State Grants – A report filed each year by the Library System Board of Trustees showing fiscal activity and library activity for the Prior Fiscal Year.

Appropriated or Levied Tax Funds – Governmental funds from a local taxing authority that have been budgeted for Library System operations by the legal body (council, commission or board of education).

Audit – An annual review of the Library System's fund level financial statements, prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for governmental agencies and submitted to GPLS, and documentation supporting those financial statements will be completed in accordance with either auditing or attestation standards promulgated by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), as deemed appropriate by the Library System's Board of Trustees or, where appropriate, agreed-upon procedures.

Basic Library Service – The minimum services that must be provided to the community at large by a Georgia public Library System receiving state funding, with no charges, are:

- Organized Collection of Library materials
- Library System sponsored programs
- Assistance in the use of library resources from qualified staff for general reference and information purposes as defined by Library System policy
- Access to Internet services

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia: (BOR) – The state agency within which the Georgia Public Library Service is administratively located.

Book Deposit:

- has no set hours of operation
- has no paid library staff
- has a rotating collection of materials and no on-site catalog
- has no telecommunications or limited/borrowed telecommunications access
- is located in a shared and/or borrowed space

If every criteria for a Member or Branch Library or a Library Service Outlet, is not met, the facility is automatically classified as a Book Deposit.

Bookmobile – A traveling library consisting of at least a truck or van that carries a collection of Library Materials, has a paid staff and makes regularly scheduled stops to distribute and collect materials.

Branch Library – see Member or Branch Library

Budget – An itemized summary of estimated or intended expenditures for a given period that includes proposals for financing them.

Central Library or Headquarters Library – The single library or a library which houses the operational center of a multiple-facility library or a separate facility that is the administrative office and/or operational center of a multiple facility Library System. Single outlet headquarters libraries must meet or exceed branch requirements.

Circulation – The checking out and renewing of Library Materials or equipment to a customer for use outside of the facility. In-house use is counted and reported separately.

Collection Development Policy - A written statement of the policies of the Library System Board of Trustees for developing and maintaining the library's collection of Library Materials.

Current Fiscal Year – The Fiscal Year currently in operation.

Deposit – A sum of money given as security for the use of Library Materials or equipment that is returned to the patron when the equipment or materials are returned to the library.

Federal Grants – Grants awarded to Library System Boards of Trustees by GPLS from funds received through LSTA from the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and other Federal grants.

Fee – A fixed charge for a service.

Financial Activity – Use of any money by a Library System Board and all member libraries and their boards. This does not include funds spent by a Local Governmental Authority On-Behalf of a library or In-Kind spent for a library.

Financial Statements – The Library System's annual fund level financial statements, prepared in accordance with the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for governmental agencies, filed with GPLS.

Fiscal Year – The fiscal year for which the state government operates its budget. (July 1 through June 30)

Georgia Public Library Service(GPLS) – The State Library Agency that is responsible for the distribution of state and federal library grant funds to Library Systems in Georgia. GPLS is a unit of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians – The licensing board of the Office of the Secretary of State for Professional Librarians.

Grants see Other Grants

Headquarters Library see Central or Headquarters Library

In-Kind see On-Behalf

Internet Acceptable Use Policy – A Library System Board policy that details the acceptable use for Internet computers, by whom and any other parameters deemed necessary, as defined by OCGA 20.5.5.

Kiosk – A Kiosk is a library facility that is maintained within another established business or agency that provides access either virtually or in person to library services and resources. A Kiosk may be classified as a Branch Library or as a Service Outlet if it meets the definition.

Library Materials – resources in a variety of formats for use by the general public or by the Library System staff.

Library Service Outlet:

- is open 15 – 29 hours weekly
- has paid library staff
- has an organized collection of library materials
- is in separate quarters with defined space used solely for library purposes
- has a telephone on site that is not shared.
- has a separate line for computer use
- has at least one computer dedicated to patron use.

A Library Service Outlet is eligible for state-funded Internet access, and may be eligible for MRR (Major Repair and Replacement) funds.

Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) – The federal grant program for library services that is provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, typically administered by GPLS.

Library System – A single library or a group of libraries from one or more counties that have been established by the governing authorities of any county or municipality by resolution or act, by approval of the voters or by contractual agreement among governing authorities to provide public library services to the constituents in the jurisdictions of the governing authorities.

Library System Director – The individual hired by the Library System Board of Trustees to administer the total library program as defined in OCGA § 20-5-45.

Library System Board of Trustees – The Board that has governing authority for a county or multicounty Library System. (OCGA 20.5.41, 20.5.43, 20.5.47)

Local Governmental Support – The funding provided to Library System Boards of Trustees by a Local Governmental Authority.

Local Governmental Authority – The governing body of any county, municipality or board of education.

Maintenance of Effort – The requirement that local governmental annual operating support for library systems shall be equal to or greater than that of the preceding fiscal year in order to qualify for state aid.

Materials Selection Policy – See Collection Development Policy

Member Library – A library (Branch Library, Service Outlet, Bookmobile, Kiosk, or Book Deposit) that participates in a Library System.

Member or Branch Library:

- is open 30 or more regularly scheduled hours weekly
- has paid library staff
- has an organized collection of library materials accessible through on-site catalog.
- is in separate quarters with defined space used solely for library purposes
- has a minimum of 1000 gross square feet
- has a telephone on site that is not shared
- has a separate line for computer use
- has at least one computer dedicated to patron use

Member or Branch libraries do not include administrative office buildings service outlets, bookmobiles, separate meeting/classroom buildings, processing centers or warehouses. A Member Branch library is eligible for state and federal grants.

On-Behalf – Auditable funds, to which an object of expenditure can be assigned, spent by a Local Governmental Authority in support of public library activities and services but not given in cash to the Library System Board or any member Library or Library Board.

Operating Funds see Annual Operating Funds

Other Grants – Grants that are administered by GPLS with the funding source being private or public funding, e.g. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities.

Personnel Policy – A comprehensive policy for the personnel of the Library System including all member Libraries detailing employment relations.

Plan for the Distribution of Services – A comprehensive description of services offered by the Library System.

Policy on the Use of Library Facilities – A comprehensive policy for the use of all library facilities (Central and all member Libraries).

Preceding Fiscal Year – The fiscal year immediately prior to the Current Fiscal Year.

Professional Librarian – A person who holds a minimum of a Librarian's Professional Certificate grade 5B or higher from the Georgia State Board for the Certification of Librarians.

Public Information Network for Electronic Services(PINES) – The shared automation system sponsored by GPLS and used in Library Systems on a voluntary contractual basis.

Public Library Materials Grant – A state grant provided by GPLS to each qualifying Library System each year for the purpose of purchasing and making Library Materials available to customers. Grants are awarded on a formula basis.

Service Area – The geographical area within the county or counties of the Library System.

Service Outlet see Library Service Outlet

Special Funds – Funding that may be temporary and/or conditional including but not limited to grants and matching funds, SPLOST and impact fees.

State Grants – Grants awarded by GPLS to Library System Boards of Trustees from state funds appropriated through the Georgia General Assembly.

State Reimbursed Public Library Position Grants – Grants awarded each year by GPLS to qualifying Library Systems for the reimbursement of salaries and benefits of locally- employed Professional Librarians. Grants are awarded on a formula basis.

System Services Grant – a grant awarded each year by GPLS to each qualifying Library System to help support the provision of Library System services. Grants are awarded on a formula basis.

Sub-regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (SLBPH) – a contract service between a library system and GPLS to provide specified library services in an assigned geographic area to persons certified to receive library services under the requirements of the Library of Congress' National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped program.

Technology Plan – A comprehensive plan for all facilities within a Library System showing current and planned deployment of technology and telecommunications.

Virtual Library – A library which exists solely in electronic form or on paper, with no physical facility.

Date: January 5, 2015

To: All Agency Heads and Chief Fiscal Officers

From: Alan Skelton, State Accounting Officer

Re: Mileage Rate Increase for Calendar Year 2015

This memo is to communicate changes to State travel reimbursement rates for calendar year 2015. These changes apply to the use of privately owned automobiles (POA), authorized State Government-owned automobiles, and motorcycles used for official state purposes.

Please make sure the information in this memo is conveyed to appropriate staff in your agency/department.

The Official Code of Georgia Annotated (OCGA) Section 50-19-7 requires use of the United States General Services Administration (GSA) rates for mileage when State employees are reimbursed for use of a privately owned vehicle on official travel.

The GSA recently announced revised rates for calendar year 2015. The following rates are applicable to travel that occurs on or after January 1, 2015:

Tier 1 Rates:	Automobile	\$ 0.575 per mile
	Motorcycle	\$ 0.545 per mile
	Airplane	\$ 1.29 per mile

Tier 2 Rate: \$0.23 per mile

The mileage reimbursement rate policy has been updated on SAO's website to reflect the 2015 rates. Any agency not on the Teamworks Travel & Expense System will be responsible for updating the travel expense form. The standard expense form template is provided on SAO's website.

Any reimbursement of mileage claims paid to an employee in excess of rates published in the mileage reimbursement policy must be refunded to the state or characterized as taxable compensation to the employee.

Any questions concerning the contents of this memorandum or related to the State travel regulations should be directed to the following email address: SAO_travel@sao.ga.gov.

cc Governor's Office of Planning & Budget
State Purchasing Division

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

2015

January 15 th	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room
April 16 th	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room
July 16 th	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room
October 15 th	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

2015 SCHEDULED CLOSINGS

All Libraries in the Regional System will be Closed:

December 31, 2014; close at 6 PM.....	New Year's Eve
January 1, 2015.....	New Year's Day
January 19, 2015.....	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
April 5, 2015.....	Easter Sunday
May 25, 2015.....	Memorial Day
July 3 & 4, 2015.....	Independence Day
September 7, 2015.....	Labor Day
November 11, 2015.....	Staff Development Day
November 25, 2015; close at 6PM.....	Thanksgiving Eve
November 26, 2015.....	Thanksgiving Day
December 24, 25, 26, 2015.....	Christmas Holidays
December 31, 2015; close at 6 PM.....	New Year's Eve
January 1, 2016.....	New Year's Day

Athens Regional Library Board 2015

(Contact Information ONLY, as of 1/15/2015)

Executive Board

Ms. Cheryl Slater, Chairman

P.O. Box 745

Royston, GA 30622

706-246-9599 (H)

913-708-2088 (C)

MrsWaltSlater@aol.com

Mr. George Nale, Vice-Chairman

505 W. Minish Lake Rd.

Commerce, GA 30530-4730

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Mr. Tom Gresham, Treasurer

154 Timberland Trail

Arnoldsville, GA 30619

706-742-7195 (H)

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Ms. Karen Harrison, At Large

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Hull, GA 30646

706-549-0241

karenhharrison@bellsouth.net

Regional Board

Appt. by Oconee County

Mr. Mark Campbell
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Mr. Robert Wyatt
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Appt. by Oglethorpe County

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Ms. Jean Westmacott
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Appt. by Madison County

Ms. Ramona Booth
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Appt. by Franklin County

Mr. Wayne Miller
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Ms. Rita Shoemaker
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ritabshoe@hotmail.com
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404-906-9653

Appt. by Athens-Clarke County

Mr. Wallace Eberhard
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Mr. Dennis Hopper
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706-340-1220 (C)
4hops@charter.net

Mr. William Prokasy
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Mr. John Timmons
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ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD COMMITTEES 2015

Executive Committee

Cheryl Slater, Chairperson [Franklin County]
George Nale, Vice Chairperson [Madison County]
Tom Gresham, Treasurer [Oglethorpe County]
Karen Harrison, At Large [Madison County]

Finance Committee

Tom Gresham, Chair [Oglethorpe County]
Penny Mills [Oconee County]
Mark Campbell [Oconee County]
Ramona Booth [Madison County]

Personnel Committee

Bill Prokasy, Chairperson [Athens-Clarke County]
Dennis Hopper [Athens-Clarke County]
Howard Shapiro [Oglethorpe County]
Karen Harrison [Madison County]

Policy Committee

John Timmons, Chairperson [Athens-Clarke County]
Wally Eberhard [Athens-Clarke County]
Rita Shoemaker [Franklin County]
Robert Wyatt [Oconee County]

Publicity Committee

Jean Westmacott, Chairperson [Oglethorpe County]
Wayne Miller [Franklin County]
George Nale [Madison County]

Note: Board Chairman and Library Director are Ex-officio members of all Committees and should be notified of all Committee meetings. All Committee Meetings should operate under the provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD COMMITTEES 2015

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Draft Agenda
Athens Regional Library Board Meeting
April 16, 2015

Call to Order

Welcome of new ARLS Director, Valerie Bell

Minutes of the January 15, 2015 meeting

Public Comment [5 minute limit]

Adopt Agenda

Financial Report—Mamie Simonds, Business Manager

Regional Reports

Director's Report

Unfinished Business

Review of Board Term Expirations (Cheryl Slater)

New Business

Approval of Signature Authority (Bill Prokasy)

Personnel Committee (Bill Prokasy)

Policy Committee – Sick Leave Bank Research Update (John Timmons)

Announcements:

Adjournment

Next Meeting is July 9, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Draft Minutes of January 15, 2015 Meeting

Athens-Clarke County Library Board Room 3:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chairman Slater (Franklin County). Present were Mr. Miller and Ms. Shoemaker (Franklin County), Mr. Gresham, Mr. Shapiro, and Ms. Westmacott (Oglethorpe County), Ms. Booth, Ms. Harrison, and Mr. Nale (Madison County), Mr. Hopper and Mr. Timmons (Athens-Clarke County), and Mr. Wyatt (Oconee County). Absent were Mr. Eberhard and Mr. Prokasy (Athens-Clarke County) and Ms. Mills (Oconee County). New member Mark Campbell (Oconee County) was also absent. Staff present were Mrs. Ames, Ms. Simonds, Ms. Brumby, Ms. Green, Ms. Gay-Griffin, and Ms. Ovington, who recorded the Minutes.

The Minutes of October 16, 2014 Board Meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Harrison, seconded by Ms. Shoemaker). The Minutes of December 11, 2014 Called Board Meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Mr. Hopper, seconded by Mr. Wyatt). After the addition of a section on Committee Appointments was added to New Business, the Agenda was unanimously approved (moved by Mr. Hopper, seconded by Ms. Booth). There was no Public Comment.

Financial Report:

Ms. Simonds reported that we should be at around 50% expenditures and revenues for the year as we are in the 2nd Quarter of Fiscal Year 2015. She reported that we are at 47% expenditures and 49% revenues. All of the Regional boards have met with the exception of Oglethorpe County Library Board which will meet in the next week. Ms. Simonds stated that the insurance and workman's comp invoices from Boswell will be paid in March, and that is why there are no expenditures there at this time. She also stated that we have saved over 30% in our Regional office supplies budget thus far. Ms. Simonds also stated that there was an added expenditure line for the Director's Search expenditures which have totaled \$4,390.94. Ms. Simonds also pointed out all of the Outside Grants that the Region receives totaling \$434,553.

Regional Reports

Athens-Clarke County:

Mr. Timmons relayed there was a response rate of 95% in Good & Excellent categories for the over 2,000 responses to the 2014 Patron Satisfaction Survey and that outreach into the Hispanic community is being considered. The Heritage Room policy and the ACC FY16 Request is being finalized and submitted. The ACCL FOL group will have a Book Sale on March 11-14, 2015, with the preview on the 10th. New member Shannon Thompson is looking forward to increasing Board/BOE communication.

Franklin County:

Ms. Shoemaker reported that the Lavonia Library renovation is in Phase II. The Board Committee and FOL group is to decide on interior additions and are tending to exterior cracks where moisture is coming through in older parts of the building,

so additional renovation funds will be used for that. They are looking closely at what they still need and how to obtain funding for those things.

Madison County:

Ms. Harrison reported that, although program attendance is higher than usual (especially for a recent program on Bagpipes), computer use is lower at present. There is a FOL Membership Drive planned for February. A campaign to elicit responses to "why I love my library" is planned, and the local newspaper will publish responses. There was no increase in the amount of money given for their budget this year, and the branch manager will begin to attend some Finance Committee meetings. They will vote on their Strategic Plan at their next meeting.

Oglethorpe County:

Ms. Westmacott reported the latest news for Oglethorpe County Library is the successful Friends' Fall Pledge Drive. They surpassed their \$5,000 goal by \$273. A local business, Oglethorpe Fresh, contributed by hosting a fundraising event in Lexington that included a cake sale and a performance by local Grammy-nominated singer Caroline Aiken. They have received extraordinary coverage and free ads from the local newspaper, The Oglethorpe Echo. The fall book sale raised less than usual, only \$600. The Friends plan to hold the next pledge drive in the spring or summer of 2016 and concentrate on the book sale/membership drive in the fall. The move of one Library Assistant to a different position at the Winterville branch has brought the computer classes to a temporary halt. Branch manager Tiffany Speed said that as soon as that position is filled those classes will restart. Their Strategic Plan's first goal of addressing Family Literacy has been implemented with monthly visits to the local Children's Academy and the Oglethorpe Child Development Center. An afternoon Storytime has been added for pre-K to 2nd grade children at the library, in addition to the weekly Storytime for younger children, book discussions, and Movie Night.

Oconee County:

Mr. Wyatt said their county's recent SPLOST is to include two million dollars for Library Renovation and Expansion of the Watkinsville Library. (A previous SPLOST will provide the local share of nearly 1 million for the Bogart project, and the State has been asked for \$1.7 million). The Bogart Library expansion is still number seven on the Board of Regents Capital Outlay request list. They have a new board member, Kimberly Lowman, and are out to recruit one more. Their FOL contributed \$23,000 last fall for Materials and are planning another special book sale in winter (February 5 and 6). They made \$880 at their Fall Book Sale. They continue to discuss whether or not to charge fees for meeting rooms. They are also keeping in close contact with State Senators and other groups who support them, hoping to speak with legislators on Hot Dog Day.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Ames thanked the Board for attending her Retirement Reception at the Lyndon House. She will continue to work on a PT basis until March 4th—new Director Valerie Bell will begin on March 16th, with Ms. Green and Ms. Brumby filling in during the interim. Varsity Hot Dog Day at the State Capitol will be January 29th, all are encouraged to attend to advocate for libraries and for funding—status of the key elements of incoming funds and grants were discussed, with funding for Materials being the dire need (pushing for 35 cents per capita), as well as a push for Bogart Library renovation funding. Georgia Health Insurance costs were discussed as an increase is again expected—TRS will also increase slightly. Recent retirees include Clare Auwarter, Laura Carter, and Diane Williams, and other turnover was relayed. Staff retention, retraining, and development of leadership skills she considers critical and are to be priorities. Legislators are continuing to hear about the libraries' oppositional stance on Gun Carry Laws; however, this year will not be a year to push for additional legislation. The Talking Books Center will officially become an Outreach Center in July 2015, and a map and list of all Centers was provided. She has asked GPLS to provide training on making the effective "ask" of Commissioners and other funders. "1000 Books Before Kindergarten" is to be promoted, as well as focusing on welcoming and acclimating new Director Valerie Bell. Her handouts included Policies for Public Library State Grants Program GPLS 12/2014, a list of legislators for all GPLS, a map of the GLASS libraries and services that will continue beyond TBC's current incarnation, and a relevant PLA article on how important libraries are.

Unfinished Business:

Audit Report for 2014: Ms. Simonds stated that ARLS has not yet received the final copy of the audit. It will be mailed to the Board when it is finalized. She stated that ARLS did have a good audit report this year, with the one finding of Internal Controls Procedures. Ms. Simonds also stated that every library in the state with one exception got this finding. She will be going to an Internal Controls Workshop in February sponsored by Georgia Public Library Service in order to evaluate steps that ARLS could take to not have the internal controls findings in the future.

Discussion of Transition to New Director: Mrs. Ames said she and Valerie Bell are working on making sure she has all she needs to get Certified with the Secretary of State's Office, including submission of her Experience Record. She also requested the Board consider making the small office by the ACCL loading dock door, originally reserved for a Facilities Supervisor, a space where renovation records could be stored in and any staff or Board member working on ARLS renovation matters could use a computer set up in the space for that purpose. A vote was taken and unanimously passed (moved by Mr. Hopper, seconded by Mr. Wyatt).

Expectations and Evaluation of ARLS Director: Chairman Slater led a discussion of how it may be prudent to prepare a format for the new Director to have a special

evaluation at the six month mark, October 2015. Charts were discussed, as an update was created in recent years to the existing form. It was decided the matter will be taken up by the Personnel Committee led by Mr. Prokasy.

New Business:

Discussion of Leave Bank for Staff: Mr. Timmons discussed the possibility of instituting a Sick Leave Bank at ARLS, using UGA's as a model. He described details, including policy issues and how it would need to be confidential and voluntary. The Policy Committee was charged with examining possibilities to be approved in time for Open Enrollment in October, should it be approved. Also, after a discussion led by Mrs. Ames, a motion to approve that, if it was warranted, ARLS staff be allowed to voluntarily donate any of their accumulated Sick leave, up to 120 hours total and on a one-time basis, for a specific ACCL staff person who is currently undergoing treatment for a serious illness and whose name will remain confidential to the Director. Approved unanimously (moved by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Ms. Westmacott).

Approval of Mileage Rate Increase: Ms. Simonds stated that the State has changed its mileage rate from .56 cents per mile to .575 cents per mile. This will be effective January 1, 2015. The Board unanimously approved the new rate for Athens Regional Library System retroactive to January 1, 2015 (moved by Ms. Booth, seconded by Mr. Shapiro).

Legislation [construction for Bogart, MRR, and Materials]: Covered in meeting reports above; MRR will continue.

Hot Dog Day: Jan. 29, 2015 - Georgia Council of Public Libraries, State Capitol. Discussion of matters of priority to discuss with legislators ensued.

Committee Appointments: Chairman Slater adjusted the current Committees and added new member Mr. Campbell to the Finance Committee. Board members received a list of all current Committees and members.

Announcements:

Those who are planning to attend Hot Dog Day and wish to carpool in library vehicles are asked to advise Admin; name badges will be made.

A list of Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees meetings and times for calendar year 2015, as well as all Scheduled Closings, was distributed to the group.

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 pm (motioned by Ms. Westmacott, seconded by Mr. Wyatt).

Next Meeting is April 16, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

FY2015
Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

	Budget Amount	Amount Received	Balance	% of Budget Received
Revenue:				
<u>Regional:</u>				
Interest	4,000.00	2,956.21	1,043.79	73.91%
Regional Fees	-	9,223.21	(9,223.21)	
Personnel	538,409.01	403,806.76	134,602.25	75.00%
Materials	23,012.10	17,259.08	5,753.03	75.00%
System Services Grant	104,475.44	78,356.58	26,118.86	75.00%
Outreach	107,400.00	80,550.00	26,850.00	75.00%
Talking Book Center	124,620.00	93,465.00	31,155.00	75.00%
	<u>901,916.55</u>	<u>685,616.84</u>	<u>216,299.72</u>	<u>76.02%</u>
<u>Athens-Clarke County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	1,759,419.00	1,319,562.00	439,857.00	75.00%
City of Winterville	18,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	50.00%
Fines and Fees	98,075.00	80,929.10	17,145.90	82.52%
Transfer	51,662.00	-	51,662.00	0.00%
Interest	6,000.00	3,721.21	2,278.79	62.02%
Totals	<u>1,933,156.00</u>	<u>1,413,212.31</u>	<u>519,943.69</u>	<u>73.10%</u>
<u>Franklin County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	32,500.00	26,074.00	6,426.00	80.23%
Board of Education	18,225.00	18,225.00	-	100.00%
Cities of Lavonia, Royston, Canon Carnesville & Franklin Springs	31,100.00	26,600.00	4,500.00	85.53%
Transfer from Reserve	8,225.00	-	8,225.00	
Fines and Fees	11,400.00	10,851.14	548.86	95.19%
Totals	<u>101,450.00</u>	<u>81,750.14</u>	<u>19,699.86</u>	<u>80.58%</u>
<u>Madison County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	197,440.00	148,080.00	49,360.00	75.00%
Fines, Fees and Copy Machines	19,408.00	14,751.68	4,656.32	76.01%
Totals	<u>216,848.00</u>	<u>162,831.68</u>	<u>54,016.32</u>	<u>75.09%</u>

Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

Revenue:	Budget Amount	Amount Received	Balance	% of Budget Received
<u>Oconee County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	369,200.00	276,900.00	92,300.00	75.00%
Board of Education	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Watkinsville	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Bogart	6,500.00	6,500.00	-	100.00%
Transfer from Reserve	24,737.00	7,095.81	17,641.19	28.69%
Fines and Fees	33,500.00	23,799.43	9,700.57	71.04%
Totals	<u>468,937.00</u>	<u>349,295.24</u>	<u>119,641.76</u>	<u>74.49%</u>
 <u>Oglethorpe County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	56,059.86	42,021.72	14,038.14	74.96%
Board of Education	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Maxeys	250.00	250.00	-	100.00%
City of Crawford	500.00	500.00	-	100.00%
City of Arnoldsville	2,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	75.00%
City of Lexington	500.00	500.00	-	100.00%
Transfer from Reserve	2,552.14	-	2,552.14	0.00%
Fines, Fees and Copy Money	11,000.00	8,362.83	2,637.17	76.03%
Meeting Room	300.00	230.00	70.00	76.67%
Totals	<u>88,162.00</u>	<u>68,364.55</u>	<u>19,797.45</u>	<u>77.54%</u>
 GRAND TOTALS				
	<u>3,710,469.55</u>	<u>2,761,070.76</u>	<u>949,398.80</u>	<u>74.41%</u>

Athens Regional Library
FY2015
July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

Expenditures:	Budget Amount	Amount Expended	Balance	% of Budget Expended
<u>Regional:</u>				
Wages/Benefits Courier	24,751.00	16,811.39	7,939.61	67.92%
Vehicle Operating & Repairs	6,810.00	4,473.05	2,336.95	65.68%
Summer Reading Club	4,000.00	2,234.21	1,765.79	55.86%
Debt Collection Service	6,000.00	-	6,000.00	0.00%
Workers Compensation	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	100.00%
Professional Fees	4,575.00	3,954.00	621.00	86.43%
Postage	4,000.00	2,378.00	1,622.00	59.45%
Travel	6,702.00	2,964.21	3,737.79	44.23%
Advertising	-	559.55	(559.55)	
Director's search expenditures	-	4,390.94	(4,390.94)	
Printing and Publicity	1,000.00	562.43	437.57	56.24%
Dues/Registration	2,000.00	1,985.00	15.00	99.25%
Computer Maintenance	2,420.00	-	2,420.00	0.00%
Insurance	17,142.00	15,998.00	1,144.00	93.33%
Supplies	20,000.00	10,036.38	9,963.62	50.18%
Personnel	538,409.01	403,806.76	134,602.25	75.00%
Materials	23,012.10	19,948.46	3,063.64	86.69%
System Services Grant	104,475.44	78,356.58	26,118.86	75.00%
Talking Book Center	124,620.00	97,833.15	26,786.85	78.51%
Totals	<u>901,916.55</u>	<u>678,292.11</u>	<u>223,624.44</u>	<u>75.21%</u>
 <u>Athens-Clarke County:</u>				
Outreach	44,000.00	33,000.00	11,000.00	75.00%
Personnel	1,522,102.50	1,074,915.35	447,187.15	70.62%
Operating Expenses	<u>367,053.50</u>	<u>239,695.44</u>	<u>127,358.06</u>	<u>65.30%</u>
Totals	<u>1,933,156.00</u>	<u>1,347,610.79</u>	<u>585,545.21</u>	<u>69.71%</u>

FY2015

Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

Expenditures:	<u>Budget Amount</u>	<u>Amount Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% of Budget Expended</u>
<u>Franklin County:</u>				
Outreach	15,000.00	11,250.00	3,750.00	75.00%
Personnel	81,950.00	64,355.11	17,594.89	78.53%
Operating Expenses	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>2,774.00</u>	<u>1,726.00</u>	<u>61.64%</u>
Totals	<u>101,450.00</u>	<u>78,379.11</u>	<u>23,070.89</u>	<u>77.26%</u>
<u>Madison County:</u>				
Outreach	14,900.00	11,175.00	3,725.00	75.00%
Personnel	165,141.00	128,889.98	36,251.02	78.05%
Operating Expenses	<u>36,807.00</u>	<u>28,028.53</u>	<u>8,778.47</u>	<u>76.15%</u>
Totals	<u>216,848.00</u>	<u>168,093.51</u>	<u>48,754.49</u>	<u>77.52%</u>
<u>Oconee County:</u>				
Outreach	23,000.00	17,250.00	5,750.00	75.00%
Personnel	410,202.00	306,777.00	103,425.00	74.79%
Operating Expenses	<u>35,735.00</u>	<u>25,268.24</u>	<u>10,466.76</u>	<u>70.71%</u>
Totals	<u>468,937.00</u>	<u>349,295.24</u>	<u>119,641.76</u>	<u>74.49%</u>
<u>Oglethorpe County:</u>				
Outreach	10,500.00	7,875.00	2,625.00	75.00%
Personnel	70,838.00	54,859.63	15,978.37	77.44%
Operating Expenses	<u>6,824.00</u>	<u>5,515.37</u>	<u>1,308.63</u>	<u>80.82%</u>
Totals	<u>88,162.00</u>	<u>68,250.00</u>	<u>19,912.00</u>	<u>77.41%</u>
TOTALS	<u>3,710,469.55</u>	<u>2,689,920.76</u>	<u>1,020,548.79</u>	<u>72.50%</u>

Athens Regional Library Outside Grants FY14/15

Grantor	Grant Description	Amount
ACCL Endowment	ACCL Materials Grant	25,000.00
Athens Rotary Club	ACCL Materials	680.00
Athfest Music grant	New children's music grant	1,200.00
Better World Books	ACCL Gift Materials	5,700.88
Bogart City Materials Grant	Bogart Materials	10,000.00
E-Rate	ARLS Educational Discount on all telephone	11,518.00
State Technology Broadband Initiative	Broadband for ARLS	65,000.00
Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library	ACCL Wish List	23,000.00
Friends of the Lavonia Library	Lavonia Materials	3,832.12
Friends of the Madison County Library	Madison County Wishlist	1,215.00
Friends of the Royston Library	Royston Materials	2,079.00
Friends Staff Development Day	funds for Staff Development Day	800.00
Institute of Museum and Library Science	ACCL Baby Boomers Technology Grant Year	160,035.00
LSTA PRIME TIME year 2	Hispanic Program	11,250.00
Oconee County Friends of the Library	Watkinsville Materials	26,433.47
Oglethorpe County Friends of the Library	Oglethorpe County Materials	3,681.21
State Major and Renovation Grant	Royston, Oglethorpe and ACCL	63,828.00
Plumb Creek Foundation	ACCL Summer Reading Club	750.00
State of Georgia Financing Commission	Lavonia Grant	13,750.00
Summer Reading Club Local Donations	Summer Reading Club	4,800.00
TOTAL		434,552.68

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
April 14, 2015
DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I have begun to settle in quite nicely. Today is the 10th workday that I have been "on the job" and I am enjoying it very much.

Programs:

Athens-Clarke County

- The next **Reflecting, Sharing, Learning (RSL)** program at the library features an old friend and is sure to be a favorite. ***The Silk Road: The Art of Margaret Agner*** will take place on April 23 at 7:00 pm in Multipurpose Room A, and in the Quiet Gallery. Margaret will begin by giving a slide talk on her own work and on her silk painting process, followed by a live demonstration of how she makes her artwork. There will be a reception afterwards, and the exhibition of her work (including several new previously unseen pieces) will take place in the upstairs Quiet Gallery.
- RSL Coordinator Van Burns continues to work to provide area residents with programs and activities to excite their educational and cultural interests. A more complete report by Van is attached.
- ACCL received a grant from the American Library Association (ALA) for a traveling exhibit entitled **"Dust, Drought and Dreams Gone Dry"**. Only a few libraries in the country are hosting this exhibit, so it's rather prestigious. A number of ACCL staff have worked very hard on this exhibit and we do hope that many of you will be able to see it. The opening reception will be held on **April 29 at 7:00pm**. The grant was successfully written and the events planned by Tammy Gerson, from the Information Services Department.
- **Beyond FergUSon: A Community Empowerment Summit** will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 9:30am-5:30pm. Beyond FergUSon: A Community Empowerment Summit is a free one day summit that will include an activist fair, book discussion, keynote address, concert and workshops regarding individual rights, positive self-image, economic inequality, community policing, participation in local government, coalition building across oppressed communities and much more.
- What I find exciting about this event is the number of community partnerships the library has made. 29 different groups are working in conjunction with the library to provide this forum.
- The Library celebrated its 102nd birthday on Saturday April 11 with a puppet show and **birthday party** for children. Jonathan Dolce, the Children's Librarian, and his team planned a wonderful event with over 150 children and adults attending.
- A complete listing of upcoming events has been prepared by our Public Relations Specialist, Rhiannon Eades.

Bogart

- In January, Bogart made the commitment to provide at least one monthly Saturday Family **STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) event** during the first quarter of 2015. Families worked together to do science, math and engineering using repurposed materials, Legos and kitchen items. All were well attended and lots of fun! The next scheduled event will be held this Saturday, April 18th, entitled Airborne in April, a program of origami airplanes, pom-pom catapults, balloon rockets and a zip-line aviary. The events have been so successful that we will continue to offer extensive STEAM programming this summer.
- One Bogart volunteer has expanded her **knitting programming**. Deborah Mowrer, leader of our Thursday Knit Lits Adult Knitting Club has added KidsKnit, a program for tweens, ages 9 – 13. KidsKnit meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 4:30 – 6:00 pm
- The Bogart Library will be a location for the **Bright Start food program in June and July**. Donna will provide a Tuesday Lunch & Learn program for all children who attend. Topics will include storytelling, read-alouds, science, math and art. Sixth graders from Malcom Bridge Middle School have requested that Donna also offer a storytelling event of mythology and folktales for tweens and teens this summer. The program, tentatively titled *Mythbuilders*, will meet several times May through July.
- In March, The Bogart Library received both compliments *and* goodies when the children of **Malcom Bridge Elementary donated money to purchase books** for the Bogart Library during their bi-annual Scholastic Book Fair. For the third time, MBES students, media specialist and faculty chose the library as their non-profit of choice. Children donated money and Donna “shopped” for over 20 books from the Scholastic titles available at the Book Fair. MBES has donated over 50 books to the library since March 2014.

Madison

- The Friends of the Madison County Library will hold a general meeting at the Madison County Library on Sunday, April 19 at 3:00 pm with special guest speaker **Colonel Lee Ellis**. Colonel Ellis is recipient of two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Valor Device, the Purple Heart, POW Medal for Service in Vietnam, and the Air Medal with Eight Oak Leaf Clusters.
Colonel Ellis is a native of Commerce, GA and graduated from the University of Georgia as a Distinguished Graduate of Air Force ROTC. He received his pilot wings in 1966 at Moody AFB, GA and was assigned to Danang Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, where he flew 68 combat missions with 53 over North Vietnam. On November 7, 1967 he was shot down, captured and held as a prisoner of war for more than five years.
In his book, ***Leading with Honor: Leadership Lessons from the Hanoi Hilton***, Colonel Ellis shares his POW experience and the 14 leadership principles that helped him and his compatriots resist, survive, and return with honor. He is a nationally-recognized presenter and expert on the subjects of leadership and performance. Free and open to the public.

Oconee

- The next big event is **Family Fun Day**, May 16th. This is the Oconee County Library Friends sponsored event that kicks off summer reading.

Staff News:

Beth A. Whitlock, Information Services Librarian at the Athens-Clarke County Library, was awarded the Carroll Hart Scholarship from the Society of Georgia Archivists in order to attend the Georgia Archives Institute in June, 2015. The purpose of the scholarship is to enhance archival education and membership. The scholarship is named for Carroll Hart, former director of the Georgia Department of Archives and History, founding member of the Society of Georgia Archivists, and founder of the Georgia Archives Institute. The scholarship will cover an amount equal to the noncredit tuition for the Institute but not to exceed \$500, and a year's membership in the Society of Georgia Archivists. The Georgia Archives Institute ten-day program includes one day of preservation and area archival institutions contribute to the success of the program by providing three-day internships for Institute students. Part of Ms. Whitlock's duties involve working in the Heritage Room at the ACCL.

Meetings:

- I met with Pat Herndon, who is the State Coordinator of the **Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services (GLASS)**, today, Wednesday 4/15. We discussed the future of the cooperative relationship with the TBBC and Athens Regional.
- I will be meeting with the Endowment Board on Wednesday 4/18.
- I will be attending the Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) "Bootcamp for New Directors" from 4/16 – 4/18.
- I am scheduled to attend the GPLS Library Director's meeting on 4/29 – 5/1.
- I am planning to attend the American Library Association's National Conference from June 25, 2015 – June 30, 2015.
- I have met with all local and regional Library Boards (counting you all).
- I met with the ACCL Friends Board on Tuesday 4/7.
- I've met with Kathryn Ames twice.

Valerie Bell
Library Director

Athens Regional Library Board 2015

Executive Board	Regional Term Began	Regional Term Expires	County Term Began	County Term Expires	Length of Local Term
Ms. Cheryl Slater, Chairman P.O. Box 745 Royston, GA 30622 706-246-9599 (H) 913-708-2088 (C) MrsWaltSlater@aol.com		June 30, 2015 (Franklin County)		July 30, 2016	3 years
Mr. George Nale, Vice-Chairman 505 W. Minish Lake Rd. Commerce, GA 30530-4730 706-789-3997 (H) georgenale505@windstream.net		June 30, 2015 (Madison County)		June 30, 2016	5 years
Mr. Tom Gresham, Treasurer 154 Timberland Trail Arnoldsville, GA 30619 706-742-7195 (H) gistom@windstream.net		April 30, 2014 (Oglethorpe County)		April 30, 2017	5 years
Ms. Karen Harrison, At Large 150 Martin-Griffeth Rd. Hull, GA 30646 706-549-0241 karenhharrison@bellsouth.net		June 30, 2019 (Madison County)		June 30, 2019	5 years

Regional Board

Appt. by Oconee County

Mr. Mark Campbell
1021 Stone Shoals Ct
Watkinsville, GA 30677-2774
706-310-9863 (H)
706-207-8652 (C)
markcampbellpe@bellsouth.net

December 31, 2018

December 31, 2018

5 years

Ms. Penny Mills
1150 Northwoods Rd.
Watkinsville, GA 30677
706-769-4077 (H)
706-201-4640 (W)
770-654-9932 (C)
pennymills@bellsouth.net

December 31, 2015

December 31, 2015

5 years

Mr. Robert Wyatt
1090 Apalachee Trace
Bishop, GA 30621
706-769-5362 (H)
770-296-6307 (C)
rewyatt@uga.edu

December 31, 2019

December 31, 2019

5 years

Appt. by Oglethorpe County

Mr. Howard Shapiro
P.O. Box 418
Lexington, GA 30648
706-338-7348
ivymaus3@gmail.com

December 31, 2015

December 31, 2016

5 years

Ms. Jean Westmacott
59 Oconee Forest Road
Stephens, GA 30667
706-759-3798 (H)
706-372-1334
jeanwestmac@gmail.com

July 30, 2016

July 30, 2016

5 years

Appt. by Madison County

Ms. Ramona Booth
539 Martin Griffeth Road
Hull, GA 30646
706-207-3283 (C)
706-543-0204 (H)
boothramona@yahoo.com

June 30, 2015

June 30, 2016

5 years

Appt. by Franklin County

Mr. Wayne Miller
89 Place De L'etoile
Lavonia, GA 30553
706-356-3384 (H)
wmiller@windstream.net

June 30, 2015

June 30, 2015

3 years

Ms. Rita Shoemaker
106 Franklin Springs Circle
Royston, GA 30662
ritabshoe@hotmail.com
706-245-7374 (H)
404-906-9653

December 31, 2015

June 30, 2015

3 years

Appt. by Athens-Clarke County

Mr. Wallace Eberhard
180 Orchard Creek Dr.
Athens, GA 30606
706-543-5363(H)
wbe1955@aol.com

December 31, 2019

December 31, 2019

5 years

Mr. Dennis Hopper
115 High Ridge Dr.
Athens, GA 30606
706-548-3973 (H)
706-340-1220 (C)
4hops@charter.net

December 31, 2018

December 31, 2018

5 years

Mr. William Prokasy
263 Woodlake Dr.
Athens, GA 30606
706-354-6828 (H)
wfp@charter.net

December 31, 2019

December 31, 2019

5 years

Mr. John Timmons
305 High Ridge Dr.
Athens, GA 30606
706-543-2358 (H)
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December 31, 2019

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5 years

Revised 4/1/2015

**Draft Agenda
Athens Regional Library Board Meeting
July 16, 2015**

Call to Order

Minutes of the April 16, 2015 meeting

Public Comment [5 minute limit]

Adopt Agenda

Financial Report—Mamie Simonds, Business Manager

Regional Reports

Director's Report

Staff presentation "Reimagine Your Library" (An Advocacy Campaign)

Unfinished Business

Personnel Committee – Bill Prokasy, Director Evaluation Form Finalization
Information from Julie Walker's Sunshine Laws Workshop – Wally Eberhard

New Business

Signature Authorization for Certificates of Deposit – Mamie Simonds
Approval of Proposed FY16 Budget – Valerie Bell
Personnel Committee – Bill Prokasy, Nominating Committee (prep for Oct. Meeting)

Announcements:

"Lasting Art" article

Adjournment

Next Meeting is October 15, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD

Draft Minutes of April 16, 2015 Meeting

Athens-Clarke County Library Board Room 3:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Chairman Slater (Franklin County). Present were Mr. Wyatt, Ms. Mills, Mr. Campbell (Oconee County), Ms. Shoemaker, Mr. Miller (Franklin County), Mr. Gresham, Mr. Shapiro, Ms. Westmacott (Oglethorpe County), Mr. Nale, Ms. Harrison, Ms. Booth (Madison County), Mr. Hopper, Mr. Eberhard, Mr. Timmons, Mr. Prokasy (Athens-Clarke County). No member was absent. Staff present were Ms. Bell, Ms. Simonds, Ms. Brumby, Ms. Gay-Griffin, and Ms. Ovington (who recorded the Minutes).

The Minutes of January 15, 2015 board meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Mills, seconded by Mr. Timmons). The Agenda was unanimously approved (moved by Mr. Wyatt, seconded by Ms. Booth). There was no public comment.

Financial Report:

Ms. Simonds gave the financial report and explained that we are in the 3rd Qtr of FY15 and should be at around 75% of the fiscal year. She stated that revenues are at 74.41% and that expenditures are at 72.50%. She stated that on the regional expenditures, the workman's compensation and insurance invoices were paid in full for the year starting in March 2015. Supplies expenditures were at 50.18% a 25% savings. Materials is at 86.69% with \$3,063.64 in funds remaining. Ms. Simonds also stated that she attended the GPLS Business Manager's conference in Savannah, Georgia in February. She took classes in budgeting process for libraries and approaching governmental funding agencies, recordkeeping and internal controls. She plans to use this new knowledge to continue to tighten up internal controls for the all the library branches which would consist of internal audits and electronic records keeping. She also pointed out a worksheet of outside grants for the region.

Regional Reports

Franklin County:

Ms. Shoemaker reported on their April 13 meeting saying Royston is having some building problems such as cracks. Lavonia is looking at Phase II of their renovation. Budget is being looked at to attain more funds and a salary increase if possible. It was Mr. Miller's last meeting so he was recognized and thanked.

Oglethorpe County:

Ms. Westmacott reported that they have a new employee who is the Teen Program Specialist. The new lights have been installed in the library and meeting room with MRR matching funds. The LED lights had increased in cost, so T-8s were installed instead. There may still be a reduction in the power bills and the light levels are improved. They may be hosting a five week period of intensive GED education early next fall. As part of a new membership drive, the Friends recently hosted tables and provided craft activities at two local. The Friends plan to use the majority of the Pledge

(approximately \$5,600) to purchase circulation materials such as new books. There may possibly be another pledge drive in the spring of 2016. The book exchange idea is moving forward with sponsors Maxeys and Arnoldsville who want to provide space for book shelves and books so people can "take a book and leave a book". A volunteer will be building the shelves. Also, a local Boy Scout attended their meeting and wants to provide book boxes in three to five outlying communities that could not house book shelves. They would build the book boxes (holding 25-40 books) and install them in locations selected by the particular community. They are exploring the possibility of moving some In-Behalf Budget items for utilities to the main budget expense roster. I may increase their total revenue. The need for restoring a Computer Specialist is a goal, either as permanent staff, a volunteer, a Friends' sponsored instructor of short sessions, or perhaps as part of a state pilot project to have someone serve several counties.

Madison County:

Mr. Nale reported all statistic numbers are up, including attendance. Leaky roof has been repaired, now working on the outside garden. Their FOL Book Sale brought in \$4,126. Two people are going off Board and their Chair is staying on.

Athens-Clarke County:

Mr. Eberhard reported the FOL Sale brought in \$23,000. Waiting for FY16 funding from County Commission. Fire & Security Service/maintenance contracts are to be signed and new cameras and DVRs will be bought. Planning an Open Meetings Law workshop featuring State Librarian Julie Walker for May 20, all Trustees invited.

Oconee County:

Mr. Wyatt summarized his understanding of the status of the Bogart Library expansion/renovation, which was zeroed out for funding by the House-Senate conference committee during the last two days of the General Assembly. Bogart was number seven on a list of ten projects advanced by the Georgia Public Library System and approved by the Board of Regents. Governor Nathan Deal included funding in his budget for only one of these, Villa Rica, but the House added half of the money needed to fund six additional libraries. Later the Senate added the other half of the funding for each of these, including the Bogart Library. In the end, Bogart was eliminated from FY16 funding, with three libraries ranked above seventh funded and three others ranked lower (including one that was not on the GPLS extended list of 24) funded. It is not clear why Bogart was eliminated from the list so late in the process, but we intend to work harder with our local delegation in FY17 to ensure that this does not happen again.

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Athens Regional Library
April 16, 2015

Director's Report:

Ms. Bell spoke about her recent activities and board meetings she's attended. how she is acclimating, upcoming programs, and what her current focus is.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Timmons reported they are still looking into having a Sick Bank Leave program and will reveal findings at July meeting.

New Business:

Approval of Signature Authority for Valerie Bell – motion by Mr. Prokasy, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, unanimously approved. Three people to meet at Suntrust Bank to adjust Suntrust account are signers Valerie Bell, Tom Gresham, and Julie Darnell.

Director's Evaluation – Mr. Prokasy reported the Personnel Committee will have a 6-month review for Ms. Bell focusing on her impressions on what's working well and what needs to be improved—Committee will then respond and then report to Board. The Annual Evaluation for Director was handed out for perusal. It will be put on July Agenda for approval.

Announcements:

None

The Meeting was adjourned at 4:43 pm (motioned by Mr. Nale, seconded by Mr. Eberhard)

Next Meeting is July 16, 2015 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

FY2015
Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

	<u>Budget</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Received</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% of Budget</u> <u>Received</u>
Revenue:				
<u>Regional:</u>				
Interest	4,000.00	3,867.23	132.77	96.68%
Regional Fees	-	22,078.23	(22,078.23)	
Personnel	544,620.21	544,620.21	-	100.00%
Materials	23,012.10	23,012.10	-	100.00%
Materials additional year end	-	26,299.00		
System Services Grant	104,475.44	104,475.44	-	100.00%
Outreach	107,400.00	107,400.00	-	100.00%
Talking Book Center	124,620.00	124,620.00	-	100.00%
	<u>908,127.75</u>	<u>956,372.21</u>	<u>(21,945.46)</u>	<u>105.31%</u>
<u>Athens-Clarke County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	1,759,419.00	1,759,419.00	-	100.00%
City of Winterville	18,000.00	18,000.00	-	100.00%
Fines and Fees	98,075.00	106,592.94	(8,517.94)	108.69%
Transfer	51,662.00	-	51,662.00	0.00%
Interest	6,000.00	5,467.21	532.79	91.12%
Totals	<u>1,933,156.00</u>	<u>1,889,479.15</u>	<u>43,676.85</u>	<u>97.74%</u>
<u>Franklin County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	32,500.00	32,500.00	-	100.00%
Board of Education	18,225.00	18,225.00	-	100.00%
Cities of Lavonia, Royston, Canon	-	-	-	
Carnesville & Franklin Springs	31,100.00	31,100.00	-	100.00%
Transfer from Reserve	8,225.00	5,562.62	2,662.38	
Fines and Fees	11,400.00	13,253.42	(1,853.42)	116.26%
Totals	<u>101,450.00</u>	<u>100,641.04</u>	<u>808.96</u>	<u>99.20%</u>
<u>Madison County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	197,440.00	197,440.00	-	100.00%
Fines, Fees and Copy Machines	19,408.00	22,890.45	(3,482.45)	117.94%
Totals	<u>216,848.00</u>	<u>220,330.45</u>	<u>(3,482.45)</u>	<u>101.61%</u>

Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Revenue:	Budget Amount	Amount Received	Balance	% of Budget Received
<u>Oconee County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	369,200.00	369,200.00	-	100.00%
Board of Education	20,000.00	20,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Watkinsville	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Bogart	6,500.00	6,500.00	-	100.00%
Transfer from Reserve	24,737.00	20,844.54	3,892.46	84.26%
Fines and Fees	33,500.00	34,791.85	(1,291.85)	103.86%
Totals	<u>468,937.00</u>	<u>466,336.39</u>	<u>2,600.61</u>	<u>99.45%</u>
 <u>Oglethorpe County:</u>				
Board of Commissioners	56,059.86	42,021.72	14,038.14	74.96%
Board of Education	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
City of Maxeys	250.00	250.00	-	100.00%
City of Crawford	500.00	500.00	-	100.00%
City of Arnoldsville	2,000.00	1,500.00	500.00	75.00%
Ctiy of Lexington	500.00	500.00	-	100.00%
Transfer from Reserve	2,552.14	-	2,552.14	0.00%
Fines, Fees and Copy Money	11,000.00	8,362.83	2,637.17	76.03%
Meeting Room	300.00	230.00	70.00	76.67%
Totals	<u>88,162.00</u>	<u>68,364.55</u>	<u>19,797.45</u>	<u>77.54%</u>
 GRAND TOTALS				
	<u>3,716,680.75</u>	<u>3,701,523.79</u>	<u>15,156.96</u>	<u>99.59%</u>

Athens Regional Library
FY2015
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Expenditures:	<u>Budget</u> <u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u> <u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% of Budget</u> <u>Expended</u>
<u>Regional:</u>				
Wages/Benefits Courier	24,751.00	12,989.67	11,761.33	52.48%
Vehicle Operating &Repairs	6,810.00	8,730.34	(1,920.34)	128.20%
Summer Reading Club	4,000.00	2,897.34	1,102.66	72.43%
Debt Collection Service	6,000.00	1,056.21	4,943.79	17.60%
Workers Compensation	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	100.00%
Professional Fees	4,575.00	3,954.00	621.00	86.43%
Postage	4,000.00	3,750.00	250.00	93.75%
Travel	6,702.00	4,278.32	2,423.68	63.84%
Advertising	-	559.55	(559.55)	
Director's search expenditures	-	4,390.94	(4,390.94)	
Printing and Publicity	1,000.00	787.54	212.46	78.75%
Dues/Registration	2,000.00	1,985.00	15.00	99.25%
Computer Maintenance	2,420.00	-	2,420.00	0.00%
Insurance	17,142.00	15,998.00	1,144.00	93.33%
Supplies	20,000.00	18,778.34	1,221.66	93.89%
Personnel	544,620.21	544,620.21	-	100.00%
Materials	23,012.10	23,012.10	-	100.00%
Materials additional year end		26,299.00		
System Services Grant	104,475.44	104,475.44	-	100.00%
Talking Book Center	124,620.00	124,620.00	-	100.00%
Totals	<u>908,127.75</u>	<u>915,182.00</u>	<u>(7,054.25)</u>	<u>100.78%</u>
<u>Athens-Clarke County:</u>				
Outreach	44,000.00	44,000.00	-	100.00%
Personnel	1,522,102.50	1,468,377.58	53,724.92	96.47%
Operating Expenses	<u>367,053.50</u>	<u>345,478.96</u>	<u>21,574.54</u>	<u>94.12%</u>
Totals	<u>1,933,156.00</u>	<u>1,857,856.54</u>	<u>75,299.46</u>	<u>96.10%</u>

FY2015

Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Expenditures:	Budget Amount	Amount Expended	Balance	% of Budget Expended
<u>Franklin County:</u>				
Outreach	15,000.00	15,000.00	-	100.00%
Personnel	81,950.00	82,001.26	(51.26)	100.06%
Operating Expenses	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>3,639.78</u>	<u>860.22</u>	<u>80.88%</u>
Totals	<u>101,450.00</u>	<u>100,641.04</u>	<u>808.96</u>	<u>99.20%</u>
<u>Madison County:</u>				
Outreach	14,900.00	14,900.00	-	100.00%
Personnel	165,141.00	165,001.56	139.44	99.92%
Operating Expenses	<u>36,807.00</u>	<u>29,677.87</u>	<u>7,129.13</u>	<u>80.63%</u>
Totals	<u>216,848.00</u>	<u>209,579.43</u>	<u>7,268.57</u>	<u>96.65%</u>
<u>Oconee County:</u>				
Outreach	23,000.00	23,000.00	-	100.00%
Personnel	410,202.00	408,315.21	1,886.79	99.54%
Operating Expenses	<u>35,735.00</u>	<u>35,051.18</u>	<u>683.82</u>	<u>98.09%</u>
Totals	<u>468,937.00</u>	<u>466,366.39</u>	<u>2,570.61</u>	<u>99.45%</u>
<u>Oglethorpe County:</u>				
Outreach	10,500.00	7,875.00	2,625.00	75.00%
Personnel	70,838.00	54,859.63	15,978.37	77.44%
Operating Expenses	<u>6,824.00</u>	<u>5,515.37</u>	<u>1,308.63</u>	<u>80.82%</u>
Totals	<u>88,162.00</u>	<u>68,250.00</u>	<u>19,912.00</u>	<u>77.41%</u>
TOTALS	<u>3,716,680.75</u>	<u>3,617,875.40</u>	<u>98,805.35</u>	<u>97.34%</u>

Athens Regional Library Outside Grants FY15/16

Grantor	Grant Description	Amount
ACCL Endowment	ACCL Materials Grant	25,000.00
American Library Association	Dust Bowl Exhibition grant	1,200.00
Athens Rotary Club	ACCL Materials	680.00
Athfest grant	Children's shadow puppet theatre	1,200.00
Better World Books	ACCL Gift Materials	5,700.88
Better World Books	Pinewoods building grant LEAP	15,000.00
Bogart City Materials Grant	Bogart Materials	10,000.00
E-Rate	ARLS Educational Discount on all telephones grant	11,518.00
State Technology Broadband Initiative	Broadband for ARLS	65,000.00
Friends of the Athens-Clarke County Library	ACCL Wish List	23,000.00
Friends of the Lavonia Library	Lavonia Materials	3,832.12
Friends of the Madison County Library	Madison County Wishlist	1,215.00
Friends of the Royston Library	Royston Materials	2,079.00
Friends Staff Development Day	funds for Staff Development Day	800.00
LSTA PRIME TIME year 2	Hispanic Program	11,250.00
Oconee County Friends of the Library	Watkinsville Materials	26,433.47
Oglethorpe County Friends of the Library	Oglethorpe County Materials	3,681.21
State Major and Renovation Grant	Royston, Oglethorpe and ACCL	63,828.00
State of Georgia Financing Commission	Lavonia Grant	13,750.00
Summer Reading Club Local Donations	Summer Reading Club	4,800.00
TOTAL		289,967.68

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
to the
ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Prepared & Submitted by Valerie Bell
July 16, 2015

News from the State (GPLS):

- ARLS has received another MRR grant in the amount of one hundred thousand three hundred ten (\$100,310) dollars for fiscal year 2016. I'm told this is more than what is usually received. Board action is requested
- PINES has a new patron profile that they want all participating libraries to adopt. This new patron type is for an institutional card. We have prepared a policy statement for the new profile. Board action is requested
- ACCL will be the site of the GPLS hosting the next PINES (the online Integrated Library System) Mini-Conference on August 25-26, 2015.
- Athens will be the host site of CUOMO this year. We have some staff presenting at this conference.
- PINES has a new patron profile that they would like all participating library's to adopt. It is for an institutional card. We have developed the following policy for that new patron profile:

Institution Patron Profile procedures for Athens Regional Libraries

The Athens Regional Library System will follow PINES guidelines for the Institution Patron Profile. This profile is designed to give access to library materials for residents or clients of residential correctional facilities, nursing homes, life-care and rehabilitation facilities, adult day-care centers and special education facilities located within the 5 counties comprising the Athens Regional Library's service area. Applicants from other institutions serving a long-term daily population will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Applications for a card using the Institution Patron Profile must be signed by the Director of the agency. Anyone checking out materials on an Institutional Card must be in the possession of the card and know the associated PIN. The Director must agree that the organization is responsible for any lost or damaged materials, which will be charged to the account according to regular library procedures.

Privilege limit is 1 year. The user will be blocked if a total of \$10 or more is owed. User is not billed overdue charges, but is billed for Lost, Damaged, and Long Overdue items. User may have up to 50 holds at one time. Circulation period is 42 days with no renewals. The Institution will retain possession of the library card. The branch issuing the Institution card will keep the application on file. Institutions must reapply for this card annually. All other library policies apply to the Institutional card. Board action is requested

Personnel:

- I've made some changes to the structure of the libraries management team. I have attached a new organization chart for your review. I would like to have Lorena Gay Griffin promoted to the Assistant Director title. Lorena is the supervisor for 10 of the regions 11 branches. She also supervises our Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services program. Joy Ovington is moving to the position of Operations Manager. Joy will continue to be in charge of the library's facilities, purchasing and Personnel matters. I will be hiring a new Administrative Assistant.
- Tiffany Speed, Branch Manager of the Oglethorpe County Library is on FMLA for 12 weeks through September 9. We are requesting to provide her with unpaid leave for an additional 12 weeks, to extend through December 2, in order to care for a premature infant.
This requires Board Action.

- Evan Bush has accepted the position of Coordinator of Children's Services for the Athens-Clarke County Library. Evan has more than 11 years of library experience in Children's Services, and also taught elementary for five years in Clarke County. No stranger to Athens, Evan worked at ACCL from 1999 through 2006. He was the Lay Park Branch Manager in 2002 and a children's librarian at ACCL 1999 through 2002. During his tenure with Athens he created such programs as The Hogwarts Summer School, One Spooky Night, the Adult Storytelling Series and chaired The Stitching Stars Storytelling Festival. Evan worked for nearly three years in Derry, N.H. as the head of the library's children's department. He moved back to Georgia in 2014 and for the past year has been the Assistant Director of the Piedmont Regional Library System. In addition to his library skills, Evan brings with him a host of creative accomplishments. He sings, plays the guitar, harmonium and washboard, teaches yoga and writes and illustrates on the side! At Athens, Evan will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the ACCL children's department. Additionally, Evan will be working with Children's Services staff across the Region on collection development, system programming, and idea exchange and support. Evan's first day at ACCL will be June 27.

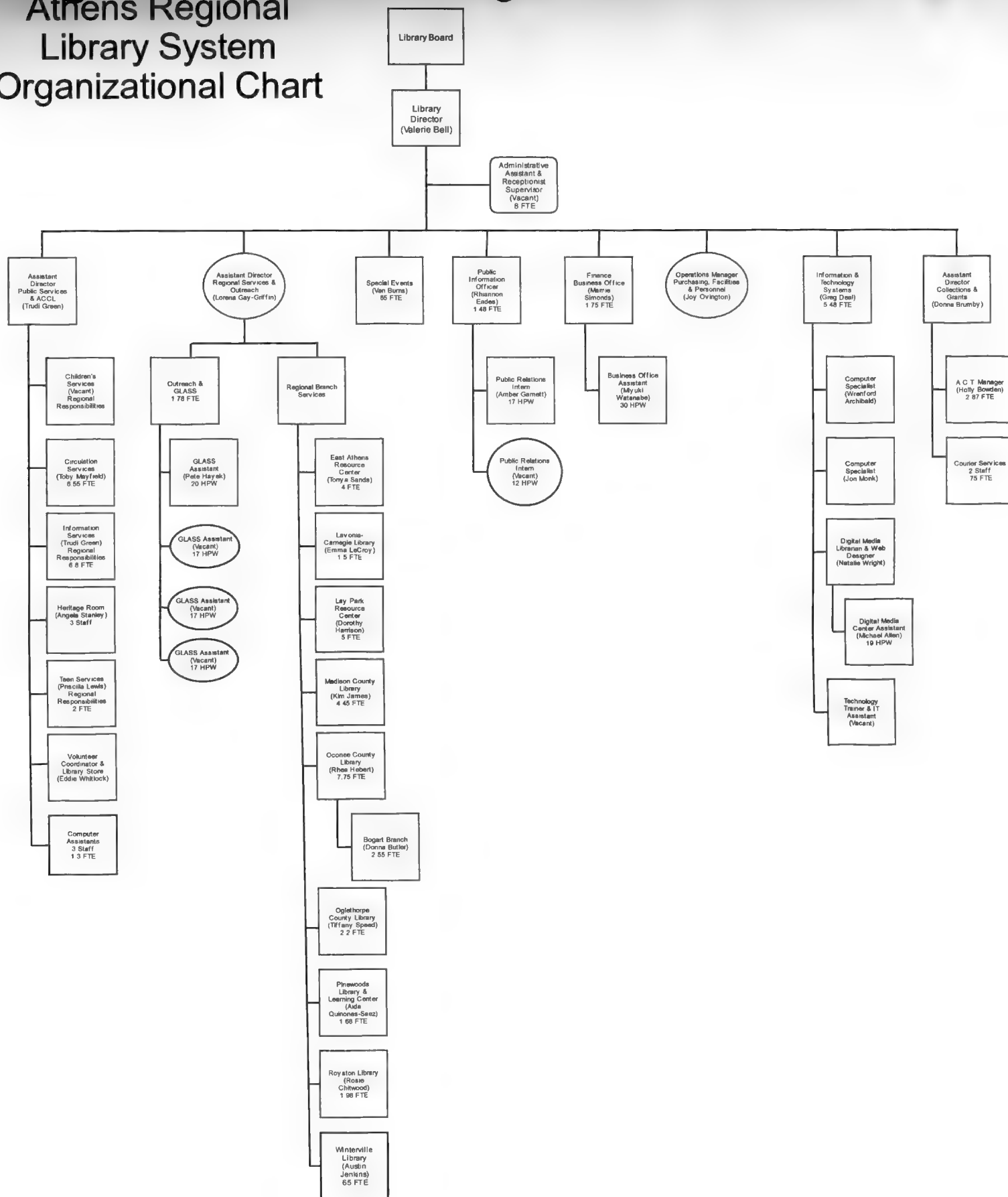
Programs:

- Logan Smalley, a former Athens resident, has developed a website called Call Me Ishmael (callmeishmael.com) for people to leave recorded messages about their favorite book. He recently developed the Call Me Ishmael phone that will let readers dial a number to hear about their favorite book. Friday afternoon, Logan will be here trying out the prototype of the phone. He'll set up in the lobby, and patrons can stop by, choose one of the books offered, and hear someone's story about that book. He just wants to get feedback from people about how it works. He tested it on Wednesday at Avid Books. The phone looks like an old-fashioned payphone, and he will not be in the way of patrons. This is a very interesting project and Logan already has several libraries interested in getting the device. Logan was also instrumental in developing the documentary Darius Goes West.
- This summer, Donna Butler, Bogart Library Supervisor, and a team of tween helpers, offered two fabulous fun and well attended programs for little ones and their grown-ups. (These were in addition to Bogart's Monday Fun-Day for babies and toddlers.) The Fine Motor Fun Festival provided parents with ideas for building pre-writing skills, while the tiny guests had a blast with seven fun activities. The Toddler Art program concentrated on fine motor skills and gave little ones the opportunity to explore artistic processes, such as texture and color. On June 1st, Donna Butler was placed on the Early Literacy Manual Committee for the CLSP. The CLSP develops the Summer Reading Programs for Georgia and many other states.
- The ALA Traveling Exhibit *Dust, Drought and Dreams Gone Dry*, was a huge success. We hosted 11 programs held April 29th through June 26th with a total attendance of 550. In all, we estimate that 4976 residents visited the exhibit.

Below are the numbers and total for all the Dust Bowl programs:

1. Dust Bowl Trivia Night (was not in brochure) - 5
2. Dr. Forrest Stegeline - Exhibit opening and lecture - 40
3. Solar Energy Alternatives (Green Bag Lunch) program - 31
4. Go Green Day @ Your Library - 65
5. Theatrical Staged Reading *In Time for the Postman* – a total of 185 attended the two performances featuring local actors. The play has been saved on our [acclibrary YouTube channel for viewing](#). To date, we have received 53 views of the play online.
6. Film Screening of Ken Burns' *The Dust Bowl* documentary - 19 and 20
7. Susan Best - *Tree Diseases and Sustainability During the Dust Bowl* - 12
8. *Documenting The Dust Bowl: Photojournalism, Propaganda, and the Democratization of Photography* - 50 (This was arranged by Van Burns for Reflecting, Sharing, Learning)
9. *Dust Bowl Poverty and the Farm* (Dr. Glenn Ames) - 38
10. Film Screening of *The Grapes of Wrath* – 17
11. One Book, One Community - Three ACCL book groups read one book and came together to discuss - 15

Athens Regional Library System Organizational Chart



Athens Regional Library System – Advocacy Campaign

Reimagine Your Library

Public Relations Plan

Executive Summary

“Reimagine Your Library” is an advocacy/awareness campaign for the Athens Regional Library System which will take place during Fiscal Year 2016. The campaign will use a variety of methods to educate the public and stakeholders about library services and programs while encouraging community residents to “reimagine” all the possibilities they can find in our libraries. Methods include updated promotion materials, paid advertising in the form of billboards and radio spots, public outreach at community events, presentations to civic groups, social media and traditional media outreach. The campaign’s success will be determined through output measures in the form of FY2016 statistics for library card holders, circulation, program attendance and use of the system’s online resources; and outcome measures in the form of public stories collected and the overall increase in funding for area branches.

Situation Analysis

The Athens Regional Library System includes 11 library branches in five Northeast Georgia counties: Athens-Clarke, Franklin, Madison, Oconee and Oglethorpe counties. The system serves both rural and urban areas, from small resource centers to the large headquarters. There is little coordination among the branches for messaging. The system’s budget for marketing and public relations is small, and staff availability for marketing and public relations functions is minimal throughout the region.

As libraries’ roles continue to expand, library funding is stretched farther and farther. There is a strong need for community support of the library system.

There is, however, great opportunity. Many people in the Northeast Georgia area are fans of libraries in general, so they are likely to be receptive to messaging about library services. Many ideas about library services and offerings are often outdated, and people are usually pleasantly surprised when they learn that their local libraries offer services far beyond books and periodicals.

Although the library system's budget for marketing is small, we are not without resources. The library system has a social media presence, which can be a platform for reaching audiences at no cost. The system has knowledgeable staff and the proper equipment for producing quality promotional material. Each county has its own Friends of the Library group with active volunteers. Each branch has partnerships with likeminded organizations in the system's individual communities.

Goal

Our goal is to inform the public about library programs and services and persuade them to see our library system in a new light. We want our public to see the library system as a critical part of the community's infrastructure and an essential resource in their lives, not just something nice to have.

By encouraging the public to see the library not only as a source of consumable information but also as a resource for creating information, the value of libraries in a changing landscape will be reinforced. Our newly informed public will then join us as advocates for library services.

Objectives

1. Update the library system's look.
2. Unify the library system's voice.
3. Inform the public and other stakeholders about library programs and services.
4. Give the audiences the tools and information they need to become library advocates.

Target Audiences

This campaign will cover the entire Athens Regional Library System: five counties (Clarke, Franklin, Madison, Oconee and Oglethorpe counties) with 11 library branches. With that scope in mind, there are five primary target audiences for this plan:

1. Potential Users (entrepreneurs, job seekers, families, makers, teens, active seniors, former users, people who don't have Internet at home, the tech "unsavvy," etc.)
2. Potential Influencers (civic groups, community leaders, partners such as the Broad Collective, tastemakers, etc.)
3. Internal audiences (staff, Friends of the Library groups, Boards of Trustees)
4. Elected officials (local and state)
5. Potential Donors

Key Messages

1. Everyone is welcome at the library.
2. The library has the power to change people's lives.
3. The library offers many unique services and programs for all ages, including emerging technologies.
4. The library is a resource for creating information in addition to consuming it.
5. The library is a critical part of the community's infrastructure.

Strategies

1. We will refresh and unify the Library System's look with new graphic communication.
2. We will establish a Speakers Bureau with a customizable PowerPoint presentation so we can reach out to community groups and civic organizations throughout our region.
3. We will purchase advertising (radio and billboards) to create greater awareness of the library system's programs and services.
4. We will reach out to traditional media outlets, including local print and radio.
5. We will use online resources, including the Library's website and social media, to engage our audiences.
6. We will interact directly with our targeted audiences by appearing at community events, and contacting audiences through direct mail.
7. We will keep library staff and Board members informed of progress.

Tactics

The following tactics will be used to support the above strategies and meet our objectives:

Tactics for Strategy 1 – Graphics:

1. The Public Information Officer and Public Relations Intern will coordinate with Van Burns in Special Events and staff member Lane Moseley in the design and printing of READ posters featuring area community leaders. Branch Managers will be asked to line up at least three community leaders in their local communities to participate. These posters will be displayed in the library branches, given to the featured leaders and digitally distributed to area media outlets. The READ poster campaign will be ongoing throughout the year. *The first posters will debut in late August. The first subjects need to be contacted no later than August 1.*
2. The Public Information Officer, Public Relations Intern, Asst. Director of Regional Services, Van Burns and Lane Moseley will work together to design informational brochures for the branches.

3. A new logo will be unveiled at some point during this campaign.
4. The Public Information Officer and Asst. Director of Regional Services will coordinate with library branch staff to ensure that staff are using Library Aware to create fliers, bookmarks and other printed materials to promote programs and services with a consistent look.
5. The library system's website, www.athenslibrary.org, will have some redesigned elements to go along with the new logo and the campaign. This will be coordinated by the Web Designer on staff and the Public Information Officer.
6. Van Burns and Lane Moseley will design branded slides that can be used for PowerPoint presentations on a variety of subjects.

Tactics for Strategy 2 – Speakers Bureau:

1. The Asst. Director of Regional Services will create a PowerPoint presentation that can be adapted for each county.
2. This presentation will be made available to branch managers, Friends of the Library, and Library Trustees. A training session will be conducted at the 2015 Staff Development Day on November 11th.
3. Branch Managers will assist in compiling lists of civic groups and other organizations that have regular meetings.
4. The Asst. Director of Regional Services will check in with branch managers to ensure presentations are being scheduled at these community and civic group meetings.

Tactics for Strategy 3 – Advertising:

1. The Public Information Officer will line up radio advertising on Magic 102.1 FM, which will consist of sponsorship of the news/weather during morning drive in August (Back to School); October (follow-up from Library Card Sign-up Month); January (New Year's Resolutions); May/June (Summer Reading).
2. The Public Information Officer will line up billboard advertising through Fairway Outdoor to highlight the campaign. The billboard campaign will consist of four billboards, designed in-house. Locations will be chosen for maximum coverage of our region. We will run the billboards in September (Library Card Sign-up Month), February (Library Lovers Month) and April (National Library Week). In addition, the Public Information Officer will negotiate for public service billboards (at no cost other than materials) when possible.

Tactics for Strategy 4 – Media Outreach:

1. Using an established network for local media distribution, the Public Information Officer will send out news releases and public service announcements to communicate with the public at large as needed.
2. The Assistant Director for Collections and Grants will compile letters to the editor we can send out to local newspapers.

Tactics for Strategy 5 – Social Media:

1. The Library's Social Media team will ensure that all social media accounts associated with library branches and departments are sending out consistent messaging.
2. The Social Media team will establish a regional Instagram account (@athens_regional_libraries) to highlight unique programs and features at all library branches. Branch staff are responsible for submitting photos for this account. The Public Information Officer and Public Relations Intern are responsible for posting.
3. The Public Information Officer will coordinate with the Web Designer for appropriate web updates.
4. Library staff will create at least six brief, lively, entertaining videos to be posted online to promote library programs and services throughout the year. These videos will be shared on social media and the library system's website.

Tactics for Strategy 6 – Direct Interaction with the Public"

1. Branch Managers will assist Asst. Director of Regional Services and Public Information Officer in compiling a calendar of community events such as fairs and festivals.
2. The Public Information Officer will work with the Asst. Director of Regional Services and others to create a visually appealing and informative library display that can be taken to fairs and festivals. Library staff will have new and enticing "giveaways" to take to community events to make the display more interactive and appealing to passers-by.
3. Library staff will plan special events in the branches for Library Card Sign-Up Month in September, Love Your Library Month in February, and National Library Week in April. Staff members Alisa Claytor and Nicole Oderisi are coordinating Library Card Sign-Up Month.
4. We will do a direct mail campaign through the U.S. Postal Service with postcards highlighting library services.

Tactics for Strategy 7 – Communication with staff and boards:

1. The Library Director will update Board members at their regular meetings and via email as needed.
2. The Library Director and Public Information Officer will regularly update staff.

DRAFT 3/29/2015
Athens Regional Library System Evaluation of Regional Library Director

Regional Director's Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: To the right of each statement check the response that best expresses your agreement or disagreement with the statement. Mark only one response for each statement and respond to all statements.

5 = Strongly agree 4 = Agree 3 = Sometimes agree, sometimes disagree
2 = Disagree 1 = Strongly disagree N/A = Don't know or not applicable

	5	4	3	2	1	N/A
Relationship with Regional Library Board. The Director:						
1. Keeps me informed on local, state, and national library issues.						
2. Assists me with reports and other information in making decisions I must make.						
3. Is accessible and returns my telephone calls or emails and is always willing to discuss issues.						
4. Listens to my problems and resolves them promptly and to the best of her ability.						
5. Treats me with dignity and respects my points of view.						
6. Presents matters requiring the board's attention clearly and makes reasonable recommendations.						
7. Implements board policies promptly and effectively for staff and for the public.						
8. Keeps me informed of board training opportunities and provides local board training periodically.						

Relationship with Affiliated Libraries. The Director						
9. Is genuinely interested in the success of my local library.						
10. Meets local funding agency officials and talks to them periodically about the library's needs and/or works with local staff to communicate with officials.						
11. Keeps my local library board informed on local, state, and national library issues.						
12. Provides my local library board with information about the actions of the Regional Library						
13. Treats my local library board members with dignity and respects their points of view.						
14. Shows no favoritism to one local library over another.						

Long Range Planning and Innovation. The Director:						
15. Has a sense of where the library system has been and where it needs to go.						
16. Embraces change and innovation in order to move the library system forward.						
17. Stays up-to-date about library law and related laws and keeps the board informed.						



July 14, 2015

MEMORANDUM TO THE ACC LIBRARY BOARD

SUMMARY OF LEGAL ISSUES WORKSHOP

As you know, Julie Walker, State Librarian, conducted a workshop here covering two major aspects of Georgia statutes that cover (A) duties and responsibilities of board of trustees and (B) open meetings and records.

The first attached page summarizes (A). The various sections are expanded in the full OCGA, available on line.

The next three pages are the Table of Contents for a summary of open meetings and records prepared by a lawyer for the Georgia Public Library Service. It is downloadable from the GPLS website. I can forward a .pdf download to you, if you wish.

Comments: Ms. Walker said that the State Attorney General is making a point of enforcing the latter. Of particular interest and importance, it seems to me, are the following provisions.

- All board and committee meetings must be posted in advance.
- All these meetings – with very few exceptions – are open to the public.
- All records and correspondence are open to the public, on request. This covers any written correspondence including e-mails related to board business and issues.
- Violations of these laws may result in penalties.

This board has been filling its responsibilities under both trustee laws and open meetings and records, to the best of my knowledge. We may not have been posting committee meeting notices, but this is not too hard to tend to, even with a meeting that is called on short notice.

Questions?

Wally Eberhard, Board chair

Title 20. Education
Chapter 5. Libraries
Article 2. Local and Regional Public Libraries
Part 2. County and Regional Public Libraries
O.C.G.A. § 20-5-43. Duties and responsibilities of board of trustees

The board of trustees shall have duties and responsibilities which include but are not limited to the following:

- (1) To employ a library director who meets state certification requirements and such other employees as necessary upon the recommendation of the library system director; provided, however, that the board shall be authorized to delegate employment of staff members to the library system director;
- (2) To approve budgets prepared by the library system director and assume responsibility for the presentation of the library's fiscal needs to the supporting agencies;
- (3) To attend board meetings;
- (4) To establish policies governing library programs, including rules and regulations governing the use of the library;
- (5) To set policy for the administration of gifts of money and property;
- (6) To present financial and progress reports to governing officials and to the public;
- (7) To notify the appropriate authorities of a vacancy on the board so that a person may be appointed to complete unexpired or full terms; and
- (8) To notify the library system director, in advance, of all meetings of library boards and board committees.

Current through the 2012 Regular Session

Minor, M. A., & Georgia Public Library Service. (2012). *Constitutions and bylaws for Georgia public libraries: A handbook for system directors and library administrators*, pp. 5-8, 16-17. (available at http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/public/libinfo/Constitutions_Bylaws-ge-pub-lib-02-2012.pdf. Hard copies are also available through PINES (call number 027.4758 M6662)).

Georgia's Open Meetings/Open Records Laws

A Guide for Public Librarians
October 2012

Marti A. Minor, J.D., M.L.I.S.

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These materials are provided as general information only. No legal advice is being given by the Georgia Public Library Service, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, or any other person. You should consult with your attorney on all legal matters.

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Regional Proposed Budget FY2016

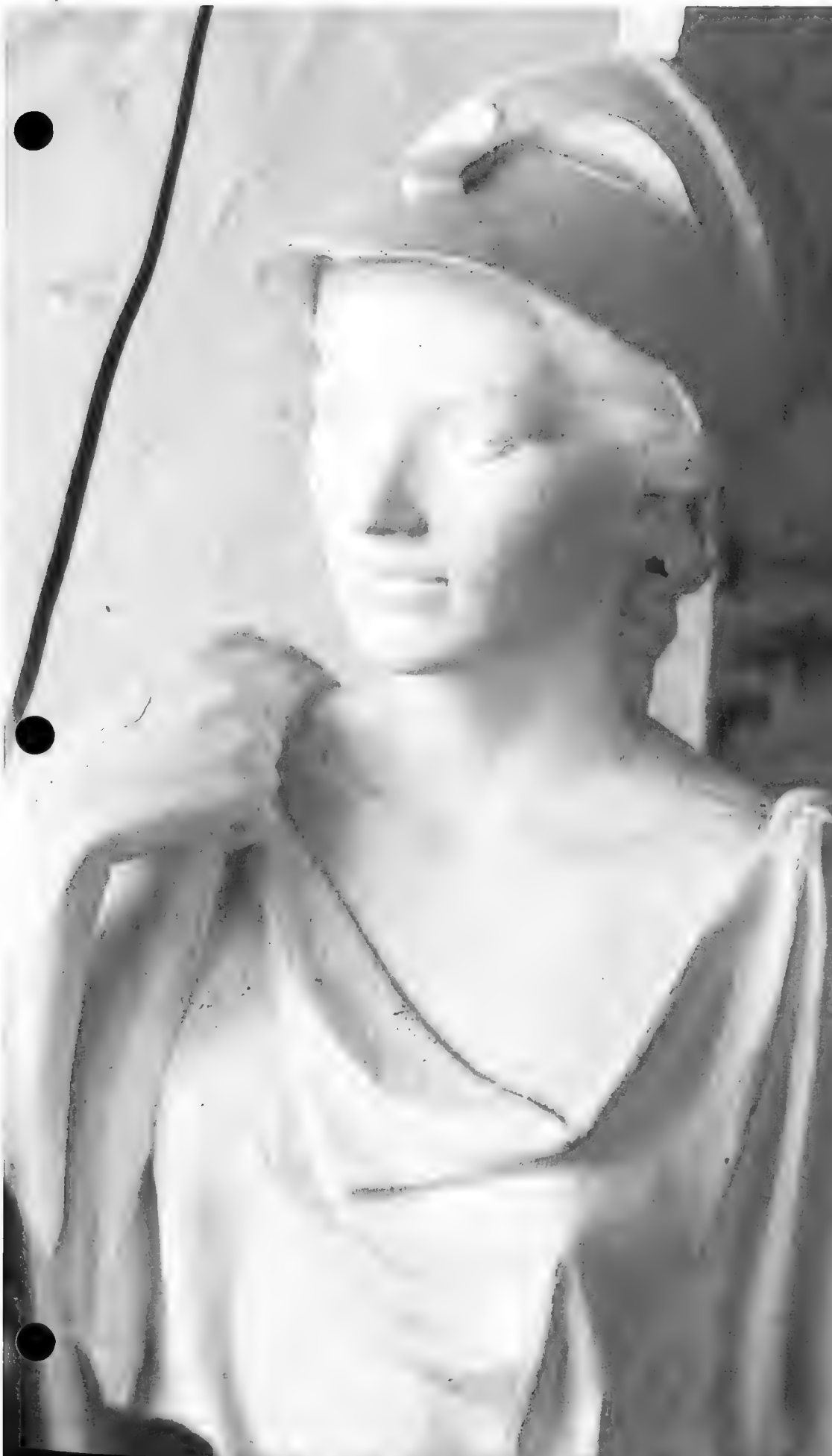
DRAFT 06/08/2015 mfs

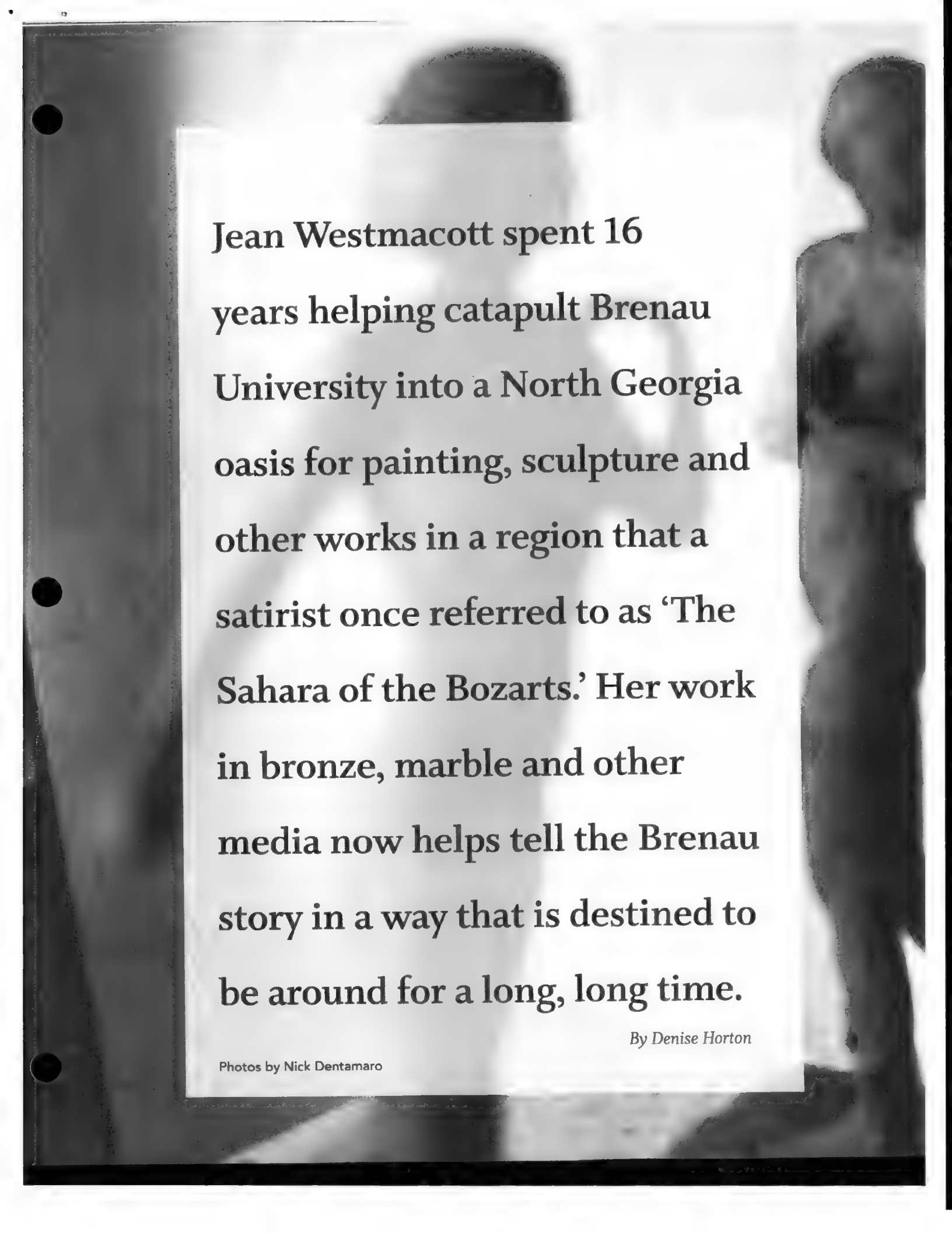
	FY2015	FY2016	TOTAL
Revenue:	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>VARIANCE</u>
<u>Regional:</u>			
Interest	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Personnel	538,409.01	694,691.00	156,281.99
Materials	23,012.10		(23,012.10)
System Services Grant	104,475.44		(104,475.44)
Outreach	107,400.00	107,400.00	
NEGA TALKING BOOK CENTER	124,620.00	76,000.00	(48,620.00)
Total	<u>901,916.55</u>	<u>882,091.00</u>	<u>(19,825.55)</u>

	FY2015	FY2016	
Expenditures:	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
<u>Regional:</u>			
Wages/Benefits Courier	24,751.00	24,751.00	-
Vehicle Operating & Repairs	6,810.00	6,810.00	-
Summer Reading Club	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Debt Collection Service	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
Workers Compensation	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
Professional Fees	4,575.00	4,575.00	-
Postage	4,000.00	4,000.00	-
Travel	6,702.00	6,702.00	-
Printing and Publicity	1,000.00	1,000.00	-
Dues/Registration	2,000.00	2,000.00	-
Computer Maintenance	2,420.00	2,420.00	-
Insurance	17,142.00	17,142.00	-
Supplies	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Personnel	538,409.01	694,691.00	156,281.99
Materials	23,012.10		(23,012.10)
System Services Grant	104,475.44		(104,475.44)
NEGA TALKING BOOK CENTER	124,620.00	76,000.00	(48,620.00)
Totals	<u>901,916.55</u>	<u>882,091.00</u>	<u>(19,825.55)</u>

Revenue over (under) expenditures - -

Lastings Art.





Jean Westmacott spent 16 years helping catapult Brenau University into a North Georgia oasis for painting, sculpture and other works in a region that a satirist once referred to as 'The Sahara of the Bozarts.' Her work in bronze, marble and other media now helps tell the Brenau story in a way that is destined to be around for a long, long time.

By Denise Horton

Photos by Nick Dentamaro

THE SCULPTOR JEAN WESTMACOTT shares a two-story 1880s home in the woods of Oglethorpe County east of Athens, Georgia, with her husband, Scotland-born Richard, a retired University of Georgia landscape design professor, whom she married in 1976. They moved to Georgia early in their marriage when Richard joined the UGA faculty and Jean landed a job at a child development center in nearby Crawford. She also taught sculpture for several summers in New Jersey as well as figure modeling and drawing for a UGA program in Italy.

"I was a complete romantic. I had no idea of the work involved in running a place like this," Westmacott said about her 200-acre farmstead. In addition to normal ongoing maintenance chores typical for a place as large as theirs, the Westmacotts acquired other 1800s-era structures from nearby locales, moved them onto their property and restored them for use as rental properties and for other purposes. There is a log house from the 1850s, a small house built in 1810 and a schoolhouse built in 1890.

Westmacott's studio, a small building where she busily deconstructs models of earlier projects and contemplates where her art will take her next, is nestled in the trees, with blooming shrubbery and a rustic fence. She retired in 2006 from Brenau University, where she was galleries director and an art professor for 16 years. By then, she enjoyed a reputation as one of the region's pre-eminent sculptors, in part because of work she started while at Brenau.

Westmacott refers to most of her work, generally cast in bronze, as "portraits," because they are "realistic representations of an individual." Her studio has maquettes, sketches and an unused clay model from arguably one of her most famous pieces, the statue of the goddess Athena that is the public art centerpiece for the namesake Georgia city. She also used the studio to complete her most recent commission for Brenau – a pair of bronze statues depicting modern Brenau women.

She nurtured ideas for those projects during her Brenau tenure while applying her hand to helping with the university's bold initiative to establish itself as a regional powerhouse in the art world. Her works now displayed on campus celebrate both the success of that initiative and Brenau's evolution as an institution that acutely recognizes its role in today's world.

Axiomatically, art often occurs by accidental collisions of people, circumstances and geography. One might suggest that Westmacott discovered the art within her through some pinball-like bounces of serendipity.

Westmacott grew up in Pennside, near Reading, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Temple University in Philadelphia with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in art. She thought for a while that she might make a career as a child psychologist or

therapist. However, her sparks of passion for art kept igniting through chance encounters.

She took pottery classes to cope with the stress of her early job as a counselor in a school for children with severe developmental disabilities. In that class, she met the wife of a famous sculptor, and the older couple virtually adopted her and exerted great influence on her career development. Westmacott's own therapist encouraged her to further her art studies, which led to her quest for the University of Pennsylvania Master of Fine Arts degree that she completed in 1973. Then, when her ancient Volkswagen broke down, the mechanic who rescued her from the Pennsylvania Turnpike would not accept payment. Instead, she recalled, "He said 'I don't want your money. I want you to do a portrait of me.'"

As the Westmacotts settled in Georgia, Brenau's president at the time, John S. Burd, had embarked on an initiative to beef up the university's stature in the art world. Burd played off a connection with pop art icon Jasper Johns – whose two aunts, Gladys and Eunice, had attended Brenau College. Johns introduced Burd to the New York gallerist Leo Castelli, himself an iconic figure in modern art. Castelli



Jean Westmacott, former galleries director at Brenau University, in her home studio.

...eed to help put on an art show on the campus, and then agreed to serve on the Brenau board of trustees.

Burd also created gallery space and an exhibitions program at Brenau. He hired Westmacott as gallery director-curator and assistant professor of art. Then he threw her into the deep end of the pool.

"Jean is a superb sculptor, a fantastic artist and teacher," said Burd. "She was highly respected by the faculty and students as well as the artists she worked with."

Westmacott's first Brenau show, celebrating the Simmons Visual Arts Center opening, featured 92 of Jasper Johns' print pieces from Castelli's collection. The permanent collection grew, and more opportunities for exhibitions opened up. Westmacott produced about 10 shows a year and established museum education and outreach programs for area schools. She also ensured that Brenau's impressive, growing permanent art collection found its way as much as possible into the public eye.

"Dr. Burd and I agreed that we didn't want the collection warehoused," she said. "We wanted it on campus so it could be shared with the faculty, students and staff." That informal program turned available wall space in various buildings and open areas in the library into a "living museum" to expose students, faculty, staff and visitors to as much art as possible.

That policy continues today with President Ed Schrader, who succeeded Burd and enthusiastically embraced the idea. The "living gallery" concept thrives beyond the historic campus in Gainesville to two other Gainesville locations and to the North Atlanta/Norcross campus.

Westmacott's work – much of it through leveraging Castelli contacts like Johns, Robert Rauschenberg, James Rosenquist, Donald Saff and others – led to stronger relationships between the university and artists and collectors around the country.

The latter group included Herbert and Dorothy Vogel, the mail clerk and librarian who famously amassed, in their one-bedroom New York City apartment, a collection of nearly 5,000 pieces of conceptual and minimalist art. In 1992, the Vogels transferred their entire collection to the National Gallery of Art. Soon after, Westmacott met the Vogels. In 1998, she curated the Brenau exhibition *Women Artists in the Vogel Collection* and brought the pair to Gainesville for the program.

When the Vogels began disposing of the collection by donating at least 50 pieces of art to a museum in each of the 50 states, the High Museum in Atlanta became the Georgia beneficiary. The couple also gave pieces to only two schools – Dorothy Vogel's alma mater, Syracuse University, and Brenau. Dorothy Vogel, who survives her husband, last year gave scores of additional pieces to Brenau. Many of those, as well as works from other donations, shaped what Schrader deemed the living "Manhattan Gallery" at Brenau Downtown Center, the home of the university's new doctor of physical therapy program.

In 1994, Westmacott won a commission for what arguably

is her most notable work – the *Athena* sculpture at the Classic Center in Athens, Georgia, to celebrate the 1996 Olympic Games in the state. She created her four-foot-tall *Athena* from clay, drawing on an image found in the Parthenon depicting the mythical quadrennial presentation of a new *peplos*, or cloak, to Athena. In Westmacott's statue, Athena carries the cloak over her shoulder while holding a shield that features an olive leaf motif – a symbol of both peace and the Olympics wreath. As a model for Athena, the artist chose a Brenau woman.

Westmacott's part-time student galleries assistant, Lara Magzan, was not Greek, but she had been born just across the Adriatic Sea from Greece in the former Yugoslavia, so she had the facial features Westmacott needed. Magzan became Westmacott's Athena.

Recently, Westmacott completed the final piece of a two-sculpture series that Burd had commissioned while he was still president. They were to represent the "Brenau woman" and "what Brenau gives to a young woman." The first piece took up residence on the terrace outside of Simmons Visual Arts Center in 2009. The other arrived last summer and was dedicated during 2015 reunion weekend.

These and other statuary on Brenau's front campus purposefully celebrate Brenau women throughout the institution's 137-year history – from the Victorian era-attired woman sitting primly on a bench in her ankle-length skirt to Gregory Johnson's jeans-attired student with a laptop computer, sitting in the grass.

Westmacott sculptures depict one young woman's entering Brenau and the other's leaving.

"Rather than having them dressed in caps and gowns, I opted to use a shawl or scarf," she said. "The one going in is nervous, lacking in self-confidence. She is moving forward, but she is looking back – maybe at her parents. She is a little off-balance and she is pulling the shawl tightly around her.

"The one going out is walking straight forward, straight ahead. The wind carries her shawl behind her. She's confident and has a sense of purpose."

Coupled with the other pieces around the front lawn, both clearly illustrate that the institution has evolved from its origins as an all-white Baptist female seminary in the segregated South to one with a rich cultural and racial diversity.

As for future work, Westmacott says she wants to "loosen up" and create work that is not quite so realistic. "If I lose it," she said, "I lose it."

Then again, is not serendipity merely getting lost so that you can find something? ▲

Denise Horton is a freelance writer living in Athens, Georgia.

WINDOW ONLINE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION
ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Cheryl Slater, Chairman of the Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief:

1. The Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees met in a duly advertised meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2014 at 3:00 pm.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into executive session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 3:44 pm.
4. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:
___ Consultation with the board or library's attorney to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the board, the library, any board officer/library employee or in which the library, or any board officer/library employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);
___ Voting on settlement of pending or potential litigation O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1(b)(1)(A);
___ Discussion or voting on authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(8);
X Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a library employee as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2).
___ Interviewing candidates for library director as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2);
5. ___ During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.
___ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and the attempt to discuss same ceased immediately.
___ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non-exempt topic.
6. Minutes were taken of this meeting and will be filed and held for in camera inspection only.

This 11th day of December, 2014,

Cheryl Slater

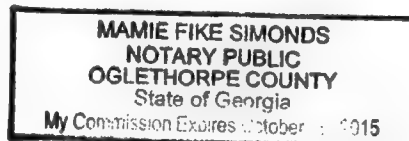
Cheryl Slater, Chairman, Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees

* * *

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of December, 2014,

Notary Public:

Mamie Fike Simonds



**EXECUTIVE SESSION
ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AFFIDAVIT OF PRESIDING OFFICER**

Cheryl Slater, Chairman of the Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees, being duly sworn, states under oath that the following is true and accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief:

1. The Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees met in a duly advertised meeting on Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 3:00 pm.
2. During such meeting, the Board voted to go into executive session.
3. The executive session was called to order at 4:32 pm.
4. The subject matter of the closed portion of the meeting was devoted to the following matter within the exceptions provided in the open meetings law:
☐ Consultation with the board or library's attorney to discuss pending or potential litigation, settlement, claims, administrative proceedings, or other judicial actions brought or to be brought by or against the board, the library, any board officer/library employee or in which the library, or any board officer/library employee may be directly involved as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1);
☐ Voting on settlement of pending or potential litigation O.C.G.A § 50-14-1(b)(1)(A);
☐ Discussion or voting on authorizing negotiations to purchase, dispose of, or lease property as provided in O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(1)(8);
☒ Discussion or deliberation on the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a library employee as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2).
☐ Interviewing candidates for library director as provided in O.C.G.A. §50-14-3(b)(2);
5. ☐ During the course of the closed session devoted to exempt topics, an incidental remark regarding a non-exempt topic or an attempt to discuss a non-exempt topic was made.
☐ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order and the attempt to discuss same ceased immediately.
☐ The attempt was immediately ruled out of order. However, the comments did not cease, so the closed/executive session was immediately adjourned without discussion or action being taken regarding any non-exempt topic.
6. Minutes were taken of this meeting and will be filed and held for in camera inspection only.

This 15th day of October, 2015,

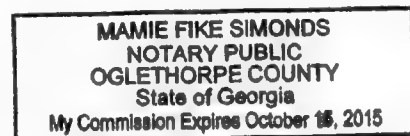
Cheryl W Slater

Cheryl Slater, Chairman, Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustees

* * *

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 15th day of October, 2015,
Notary Public:

Mamie Fike Simonds
10/18/2015



27 n/s

Certificate of Appointment of Notary Public

Georgia, OGLETHORPE County

I, **KELLI PARADISE SMITH**, Clerk of Superior Court in and for said County, hereby certify that **MAMIE FIKE SIMONDS**, whose address is **36 WHITETAIL LANE, CRAWFORD, GA, GA 30630**

Age: **45**, Sex: **FEMALE**, was duly appointed and sworn in as a Notary Public under the provision of O.C.G.A. Title 45, Ch. 17, Art. 1 as Amended, that their term of office begins on the **27th day of October, 2011**, and expires on the **26th day of October, 2015**.



WITNESS my hand and seal of said Court this
27th day of October, 2011

Kelli Paradise Smith

(Clerk's Signature)

Clerk of Superior Court
OGLETHORPE County, Georgia

Mamie Fike Simonds

(Notary's Signature)

**ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD
2015 ATTENDANCE RECORD**

	January	April	July	October
Mark Campbell	ABSENT	X	X	ABSENT
Wally Eberhard	ABSENT	X	X	X
Tom Gresham	X	X	X	X
Karen Harrison	X	X	X	ABSENT
Dennis Hopper	X	X	ABSENT	X
Wayne Miller/ Darby Cannon	X _{WM}	X _{WM}	X _{DC}	ABSENT _{DC}
Penny Mills	ABSENT	X	X	X
Ramona Booth	X	X	X	ABSENT
George Nale	X	X	ABSENT	RESIGNED
Bill Prokasy	ABSENT	X	X	X
Howard Shapiro	X	X	X	X
Rita Shoemaker	X	X	X	ABSENT
Cheryl Slater	X	X	X	X
John Timmons	X	X	ABSENT	X
Jean Westmacott	X	X	X	X
Robert Wyatt	X	X	ABSENT	X

**ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
2015 ATTENDANCE RECORD**

	January	April	July	October
Diane Adams	X	X	ABSENT	X
Erin Boydston	X	X	X	X
Sean Boyle	X	ABSENT	X	ABSENT
Theresa Cullen	X	X	X	X
Julie Darnell	X	X	ABSENT	X
Linda Dodson	X	X	ABSENT	X
Wally Eberhard	X	X	X	ABSENT
John Gaither	X	X	X	X
Janet Geddis	X	X	X	X
Dennis Hopper	ABSENT	X	X	X
Linda Jones	ABSENT	X	X	X
Craig Pascoe	X	X	X	ABSENT
Bill Prokasy	X	X	X	X
Shannon Thompson	X	X	ABSENT	X
John Timmons	X	X	ABSENT	ABSENT
David "Chip" Woods	X	X	X	X

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
DRAFT Minutes, October 14, 2014 Meeting
Athens-Clarke County Library Board Room

Chairman Dennis Hopper called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Trustees present were: Diane Adams; Svea Bogue; Erin Boydston; Linda Dodson; Wally Eberhard; John Gaither; Janet Geddis; Linda Jones; William Prokasy; John Timmons; Chip Woods; Sean Boyle; Julie Darnell; Craig Pascoe. Theresa Cullen was absent. Staff members present were: Kathryn Ames; Donna Brumby; Trudi Green; Mamie Simonds; and Joy Ovington (who recorded the Minutes).

After the call to order, the Minutes of the July 8, 2014 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved (Moved by Ms. Bogue and Seconded by Mr. Prokasy). The Agenda was then adopted unanimously (Moved by Mr. Prokasy and Seconded by Ms. Adams). There was no Public Comment.

Staff Report:

Donna Brumby and Trudi Green handed out the newly updated Request for Reconsideration of Library Resource or Service form and explained how it will be used.

Financial Report:

Ms. Simonds presented the 1st Qtr FY15 Financial Report to the Board. Ms. Simonds reported that we should be at around 25% of the year's budget. Revenues were at 24% and Expenditures were at 23%. Materials were high and it was explained by Director Kathryn Ames that we wanted to spend the local materials monies first. Ms. Simonds also noted that the auditors were currently on site and she would be working with them on the FY14 Audit Engagement.

Committee Reports

Winterville – Linda Jones reported that one of the vacancies on their Advisory board was filled by Winterville attorney Ms. Walker McNiff and the other vacancy is still open. Summer Reading Program, Teen Time, and Friends of the Library involvement is active and successful. The Mobile Computer Lab had 47 participants, and their holiday party is scheduled for December 18 at 6:30 pm.

Nominating Committee – Svea Bogue reported their recommendations and a unanimous vote took place that elected these Officers for the coming year: Mr. Wally Eberhard-Chair, Mr. Craig Pascoe-Vice-Chairman, and Ms. Julie Darnell-Treasurer.

Public Relations Committee – No Report

Policy Committee – moved to New Business segment of meeting

Endowment Board – Svea Bogue said they met on September 22nd and will meet again on October 20th. They have had inquiries regarding Planned Giving and need a Speaker—they are working on that at present.

Friends of the ACC Library – Sean Boyle reported the Spring Book Sale date is TBA, around UGA's Spring Break time. They had four Café au Libris events—100 people attended the Terry Kay event and there were also three others that had about 160 additional people attend. An upcoming event will be with Charlotte Marshall who edited "A Tangible Past" on the History of Athens, GA, on December 14th, & the day

before that on December 13th the Friends will hold their annual holiday gift-wrap fundraiser at Barnes & Noble Bookstore.

Director's Report:

Mrs. Ames handed out an encapsulation of the FY14 Annual Report and explained statistics under each topic.

Unfinished Business

Staff Training on the New Gun Law – Trudi Green reported on how Staff Training went after giving a brief overview of HB60. Officer Tim Scott led the staff training.

Update on Director Search – Mr. Prokasy stated that the closing date for applications is October 15th, and there are thirteen applicants (three from Georgia).

New Business

Constitution & By-Laws Update – Updated versions were handed out by Mr. Eberhard and he thanked Ms. Cullen for her work on the documents as things were tidied up, edited, and term limits were adjusted. A unanimous vote took place to approve the updated versions (moved by Mr. Eberhard, seconded by Mr. Gaither).

Policy Committee – Svea Bogue reported that there is now a proposition to change the draft of the updated Heritage Room Policy, on pg 5—to change the amount to \$2,500 and then present it to the Board for approval in the future. It was unanimously approved that it go back to the Policy Committee and Librarian Angela Stanley for further review (moved by Ms. Adams and seconded by Mr. Woods). Also, the new Digital Media Center Policy was handed out and described. A vote to unanimously approve it was held (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Timmons).

Discussion of Budget Goals for 2016 – John Culpepper retired from the Finance Committee and Chris Caldwell will fill in. Julie Darnell was added to the Committee. Increased utility costs and improved wages were mentioned in the discussion. Another meeting will be scheduled soon.

Announcements:

Staff Development Day, Tuesday, November 11

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm (moved by Ms. Bogue, seconded by Mr. Woods).

Next Meeting is January 13, 2015, at 4:00 pm in the Athens-Clarke County Board Room.

**ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Thursday, October 15, 2015
DRAFT AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held July 16, 2015
- III. Adopt Agenda of October 15, 2015 Meeting
- IV. Public Comment [5 minute limit]

- V. Financial Report, FY16Q1 – prepared by Mamie Simonds, Business Manager
- VI. Regional Reports
- VII. Director's Report (including any Staff Presentations)
 - New look to the Agenda & Minutes
 - Staff Development Day, Tuesday, November 11
 - *Reimagine Your Library* Campaign
 - Pinnacle
 - Clements Reception
 - GPLS Construction Grants
- VIII. Old Business
- IX. Committee Reports
 - Policy Committee – John Timmons
 - Personnel Committee – William Prokasy
- X. Communications
- XI. New Business
 - Election of Officers
- XII. Board Action
 - Approval of Schedule of Library System Closings for 2016
 - Draft of ARLS Board Meeting Dates for 2016

- XIII. Closed Session

- XIV. Adjourn

Next Meeting January 21, 2016 at 3:30p.m.

FY2016
Athens Regional Library
July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015

Revenue:	Budget	Amount		% of Budget
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Received</u>
<u>Regional:</u>				
Interest	4,000.00	997.67	3,002.33	24.94%
Regional Fees	-	3,083.87	(3,083.87)	
Personnel	634,456.31	158,614.08	475,842.23	25.00%
STEAM MATERIALS GRANT	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	100.00%
System Services Grant	60,234.69	15,058.67	45,176.02	25.00%
Outreach	107,400.00	26,850.00	80,550.00	25.00%
Talking Book Center	<u>76,600.00</u>	<u>19,150.00</u>	<u>57,450.00</u>	<u>25.00%</u>
	<u>892,691.00</u>	<u>233,754.29</u>	<u>658,936.71</u>	<u>26.19%</u>

Expenditures:	Budget	Amount		% of Budget
	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expended</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Expended</u>
<u>Regional:</u>				
Wages/Benefits Courier	24,751.00	3,001.20	21,749.80	12.13%
Vehicle Operating & Repairs	6,810.00	1,565.87	5,244.13	22.99%
Summer Reading Club	4,000.00	875.00	3,125.00	21.88%
Debt Collection Service	6,000.00	617.55	5,382.45	10.29%
Workers Compensation	12,000.00	271.40	11,728.60	2.26%
Professional Fees	4,575.00	460.00	4,115.00	10.05%
Postage	4,000.00	241.09	3,758.91	6.03%
Travel	6,702.00	839.24	5,862.76	12.52%
Printing and Publicity	1,000.00	230.45	769.55	23.05%
Dues/Registration	2,000.00	430.00	1,570.00	21.50%
Computer Maintenance	2,420.00	-	2,420.00	0.00%
Insurance	17,142.00	-	17,142.00	0.00%
Supplies	20,000.00	129.87	19,870.13	0.65%
Personnel	634,456.31	158,614.08	475,842.23	25.00%
STEAM MATERIALS GRANT	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	100.00%
System Services Grant	60,234.69	15,058.67	45,176.02	25.00%
Talking Book Center	<u>76,600.00</u>	<u>19,150.00</u>	<u>57,450.00</u>	<u>25.00%</u>
Totals	<u>892,691.00</u>	<u>211,484.42</u>	<u>681,206.58</u>	<u>23.69%</u>

Revenues over (under) expenditures - 22,269.87

DIRECTOR'S REPORT
to the
ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Prepared & Submitted by Valerie Bell
Thursday October 15, 2015

News from the State (GPLS)

Valerie Bell, Library Director

- * The Annual Report for State Aid Report was submitted Friday September 25, 2015 on time again this year. A number of changes in the way items were reported resulted in significant decreases in certain areas. For instance circulation is down approximately 30% from 2014 report. TBC and Bookmobile were eliminated from the 2015 Annual Report, also resulting in a numeric statistical decrease. An analysis of the Annual Report will be available at the next quarterly meeting.
- * The issues surrounding the Bogart sewer installation and payment were resolved and a check has been cut to the City of Bogart. Plans are to connect the Bogart to new sewer lines and thus eliminate the septic system. The state will reimburse 50% of the cost (up to \$50,000.00) of the design/installation of the sewer line.
- * The city of Lavonia is ready to move forward with renovating the interior of the building. City Officials, Library Board Members, and ARLS staff met on Wednesday, October 7, 2015 to determine the parameters of the project. Included are repairs to the back wall, new flooring, and paint.
- * Kim James and Lorena Griffin worked to spend the remainder of the building funds by August 30. The amount was \$43,000. You have already seen the owl sculpture and the outdoor classroom. Since the last board meeting, power was added to that classroom; The Zen garden and fountain have been installed, the Heritage room has been carpeted and received additional shelving and furniture, and the teen section received new seating.

Administrative Report and Updates

Valerie Bell, Library Director

- * **Staff Development Day** will be held on November 11, 2015. All branches will be closed to the public for the Region's annual day of training. A team of library staff is working on plans for Staff Development Day 2015. This year's theme will follow our Reimagine Your Library public relations campaign. We'll be training on new technology and envisioning new ways to provide inviting, exciting, safe, and meaningful facilities and services for patrons throughout the Region. Board members and Friends are very much invited and welcomed to attend the day with us. (Action Item)
- * **The Friends of Georgia Libraries** is planning to hold their 2016 annual meeting in Athens. The tentative date is April 22, 2016. It is very preliminary now, as details progress, I will share them with you.
- * **Updating personnel policies:** The Library's Resource team has developed a schedule to review all existing personnel policies for accuracy, timeliness, contradictions and updates. We are starting with the personnel policies because they are most in need of updating. It is an aggressive plan with approximately 30 policies reviewed by the next quarter. If all goes according to plan, we will have 30 updated policies ready for Policy Committee review in January 2016.
- * With the help of Board Member John Timmons, a Memorandum of Understanding was drafted and submitted to Oconee County Commission Chairman Melvin Davis on July 25, 2015 for the construction and renovation of the Bogart Branch Library. We are still waiting to hear back from the Oconee BOC with changes or recommendations. The proposed MOU is attached to this document.
- * I spoke with Kathryn Ames to inquire about her interest in working with me to head up the Bogart Branch expansion project. Ms. Ames said that she would be interested in helping in any way she could.

The Oconee Library Board is amenable to having Kathryn on the project. I do think we should offer her a stipend for her work construction will probably take at least year. (Action Item)

- * We have begun the process to institute Code Adam procedures at every library across the System. Code Adam is a nationwide alert system that first began in Wal-Mart. It alerts employees over the public address system that a child is missing and to actively search the store premises. The purpose of Code Adam is to act quickly and effectively to prevent harm to any child who has been separated from a loved one. There is currently seventy-one staff actively involved with eight committees across the Region.
- * ARLS has been approached by the

Development & Grants

Donna Brumby, Assistant Director

- * At Valerie Bell's suggestion, a new Grants Team has been established to assist staff in securing and accomplishing grants throughout the Region. The team serves as gatekeepers, verifiers, advisors, mentors, coaches, and record keepers for all grants. The current team members are Donna Brumby (team leader), Lorena Gay-Griffin, Tammy Gerson, Rhea Hébert, Kim James, and Angela Stanley. The team has prepared procedures for submitting grants and maintaining files of grants and their statuses.
- * Grants awarded during the third quarter of FY16
 - GPLS / IMLS grant for STEAM (Science / Technology / Engineering / Art / Math) materials
\$10,000.00 (for entire Region) was used to purchase materials such as 88-key digital piano and accessories, ukuleles to circulate to patrons, a looper effects pedal; art books for children, various technology gizmos and kits (Makey-Makey; Littlebits; Cublets), and computer drawing tablets. These materials will be used in programming and for checkout by patrons.
 - Spotlight on Georgia Archives grant from the Society of Georgia Archivists
Oconee County Library was awarded \$500.00 for the promotion of Georgia Archives Month at the Library (September). This grant funded four programs dedicated to family history reach, highlighting resources available at the library.
 - Mini Museum Educational Donation Program
Oconee County Library was awarded a \$300 Mini Museum Kit.
 - ALA / Association for Library Service to Children Curiosity Creates
Oconee County Library was awarded \$7,500.00 to promote exploration and discovery for children ages 6 to 14.
- * Priscilla Lewis our Teen Services Coordinator, applied for and received ALA's "Great Stories Club" grant. This grant targets 11 at-risk youth and uses literature to assist the teens in discussing their larger life issues. This grant will implement three book discussions that would include guest speakers/participants for each book discussed. The books to be distributed and discussed are *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, *Feed* by M. T. Anderson and *March Book One* by John Lewis. Partners in the grant include the Clarke County School District, the University of Georgia and Lemuel LaRoche. Only 49 libraries across the nation were honored awarded this grant.
- * **Pinewoods Library and Learning Center** was awarded a grant to run the Gente y Cuentos/People and Stories project. This is a bilingual discussion group focused on the experiences of Latinos as illustrated through literature. Branch Manager Aida Quinones will attend a training session in Princeton, NJ, at the end of October.
- * The National Endowment for the Humanities/American Library Association grant, "Latinos in America: 500 Years of History" was awarded to the Pinewoods Library. The grant is a cooperative project between Athens Regional Library and UGA's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Institute.
- * Assistant Director Lorena Gay-Griffin applied but did not receive a grant from Jackson EMC for the Pinewoods facility replacement

- * Assistant Director Lorena Gay-Griffin has submitted a grant application to the Abreu Foundation and to the Turner Family Foundation for a grant in the amount of \$15,000. The purpose of the grant request is to complete the Pinewoods move into a larger facility.

Support Services

Materials

Donna Brumby, Assistant Director

- * The Technical Services Department is now fully staffed. In addition to Technical Services Librarian Holly Bowden and part-time copy cataloger Phil Siegler, part-time processor Claudia Markov and full-time Acquisitions Assistant Josh Goodwin joined the team during this quarter.
- * Various members of the Collection Management team attending training sessions during the PINES Mini-conference, which was held at the A-CC Library in August.
- * Donna Brumby is a member of the state's Resource Sharing Network for Georgia's Libraries (GOLD). This group monitors membership compliance with inter-library loan practices across Georgia.

Public Relations

Rhiannon Eades, Public Information Officer

- * The Reimagine Your Library campaign is in high gear!
 - Throughout August, we ran a radio campaign with Magic 102.1 FM encouraging listeners to register for library cards during their Back-to-School preparations.
 - We also had a booth at Georgia Square Mall's Back-to-School Bash and attended a few open houses at local schools.
 - Comparing statistics from August 2014 to August 2015, the campaign has been very successful. Library card registrations were up 25% over last year!
 - In September, we purchased four billboards promoting Library Card Sign-Up Month (located on Atlanta Highway near Sam's Club, Pulaski and Dougherty Streets downtown, U.S. Highway 29 at Harve Mathis Road, and on Lexington Road near the eastside Walmart).
 - The Reimagine Campaign sponsored a weekly prize drawing for new library card holders in September, featuring reusable tote bags filled with library-branded items. We also held an online drawing using Facebook.
 - Throughout November and December, the Reimagine campaign will include movie theater advertising at University 16 Cinemas and the Beechwood Theater. Our spot will be shown before every screening of every film on every screen of these two theaters. We are currently working with the production company to produce the spot.

* Technology

Greg Deal, Information Technology Manager

- * Greg Deal attended E-rate webinar to discuss changes to the E-rate program, including new processes and eligibility rules.
- * All public access catalog computers in the region are being replaced and upgraded to include the ability to receive statistics for OPAC use.

* Public Services (ACCL)

Trudi Green, Assistant Director

- * **Children's Department** will be featured in the upcoming November/December issue of the Athens/Oconee Parenting magazine highlighting a selection of read a-louds for the holidays.
- * **Circulation Manager** Toby Mayfield was the local event coordinator for the State wide PINES conference which was held at the Athens Branch in September. I have attached a letter of thanks from the GPLS Pines Director thanking ACCL and stating that this conference was one of the best they have held. Under Toby's leadership, everyone on staff pitched in. Toby and her team deserve much credit for organizing such a grand event and making sure ACCL and ARLS was viewed positively around the State.

- * The Library recently acquired new shelving for the new books browsing area. The circulation staff worked very hard to set up a temporary browsing area and then set up, organized and restocked the new shelves. The new shelving provides much more display space, which the circulation staff will stock. (SPLOST)
- * The **Heritage Room** contributed five unique archival collections and one book to be digitized for the Public Library Partnership Project, co-sponsored by the Digital Public Library of America and the Digital Library of Georgia. Materials from these collections were hand-selected for two digital exhibits. The rest of the digitized collections will be available on the DPLA and DLG by the end of October.
- * A bi-annual inspection of our **passport services** was conducted in July, and we received another passing grade. To better serve our patrons, passport services has relocated to the second floor in the area behind the Information Desk. This will ensure privacy to our passport patrons and provide more streamlined services.
- * The summer was busy for the **Teen Department**. Priscilla Lewis our Teen Services Coordinator applied and was granted into the Google and Make Magazine's Maker Camp Affiliate program. Teen Department hosted Maker Camp two days a week for six weeks. Each camp consisted of a project that the teens would make and occasionally the teens would watch a Google/Make Magazine produced short video regarding the day's project.

Outreach and Branch Services

Lorena Gay-Griffin, Assistant Director

GLASS Outreach Department

- * The Talking Books Center has transitioned completely to a new service model. All mailing of materials, customer service, and reader's advisory services are now handled centrally in Atlanta and from a warehouse in Morrow. Athens is now responsible only for spreading the word about this fantastic program. The purpose of GLASS is to make recorded books available to people with visual impairments or other disabilities which make reading traditional print difficult. Our "new" department consists of four part-time Outreach Specialists. The Specialist will travel throughout our assigned 22-county Northeastern Georgia service area. Currently, they have visited all of the public libraries in the region, revisited a variety of assisted living facilities and senior centers, and are working on scheduling speaking engagements at area Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions' Clubs. In addition to Talking Books, GLASS (Georgia Library Accessibility Statewide Services) also works to make library services accessible for a variety of other special needs populations. As a result, one staff member has begun a weekly book discussion group for adults with intellectual disabilities from Extra Special People in Watkinsville. Monthly measures show the number of people enrolling for the GLASS service is slowly increasing.

ACCL:

- * **Lay Park and East Athens** Library's Summer Reading Program supports the day camps at each of these facilities. Both community centers enjoyed a full schedule of SRP performances
- * The **Winterville** Library attracted 850 participants to Summer Reading Program events.
- * On July 1, with the new fiscal year, staff hours at the **Winterville** branch were increased. As a result, Branch Manager Austin Jenkins has been able to nurture relationships with both the schools and with the Georgia Youth Science and Technology Center (GYSTC).
- * In September, **Winterville** Elementary Media Specialist Pat Britton organized Library Card Sign-up Night. She and Winterville Principal Jerry Stapleton attended, in addition to 99 others, 14 of whom signed up for new library cards.
- * **Pinewoods Library and Learning Center** will celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with a Latino Festival from noon to 5 pm on Saturday, October 16. (The festival was originally scheduled for the 10th, but was postponed due to rain). The festival will include food, music, dance, stories and children's activities. Fliers were distributed to public schools with a Hispanic student body greater than 25%.

- * Chris McDowell, Program Director for the Materials Reuse Program at the University of Georgia teaches a course in the School of Environmental Design on Sustainability and Reuse. As part of his class, he has installed a community garden across from the library and his students have built an outdoor oven and bench.
- * The library continues to seek funding to move library branch into a larger trailer. Total cost for the move is approximately \$30,000. The LEAP grant from Better World Books will cover \$15,000 of that cost. We applied but were not awarded a grant from Jackson EMC. We have recently applied to the Abreu Foundation and to the Turner Family Foundation for the remaining \$15,000.

Franklin County:

- * **Lavonia:** Over 500 people attended Summer Reading Program performances this year. The Friends of the Library sold books at the annual Lavonia Fall Festival and raised almost \$500.
- * **Royston:** Final number for SRP program attendance was 1,010.

Madison County:

- * Branch Manager Kim James and Assistant Director Lorena Gay-Griffin will travel to Colorado in early November to receive training for the Discover Tech exhibit, which has been scheduled for October-December 2016. The branch is also planning to apply for a "Vibrant Communities" Grant from the Georgia Council for the Arts, which (if awarded) will bring art instruction and programming to the branch.

Oglethorpe County:

- * The branch has formed a partnership with the new director of the Oglethorpe County Parks and Recreation Department. Benjamin McDaniel is offering a monthly "Busy Bodies with Coach Ben" program for toddlers in our meeting room. We have ordered an outdoor banner to advertise the Reimagine Your Library! campaign which will be placed at the ball fields. Director McDaniel has also offered to hold a 5K run to benefit the library next spring. Branch staff attended Open House events at the four schools, promoting a library card as an important back-to-school supply.

Oconee County:

- * **Bogart:** At 4,490, Summer Reading Program attendance was off the charts, especially for such a small branch.
- * **Watkinsville:** The Friends of the Library held its fall book sale where over \$15,000 was raised.

Partnerships

Valerie Bell, Library Director

- * The **Food Bank of Northeast Georgia** approached ARLS with a partnership proposal. The Food Bank's mission is to feed the ill, needy, seniors, and children of northeast Georgia. Our mission is to work toward ending hunger as part of an overall community effort to alleviate poverty. I have met with a Beegee Elder the Childhood Nutrition Manager and April Burkhart the Communications Assistant, to discuss partnership opportunities between our two organizations. We want to leave the partnership open to add activities as they arise. For the most part right now, we are interested in partnering in various ways on two programs.
 - Provide Collection Barrels. The library would have one of our collection barrels on site for our monthly food collection to benefit the Food 2 Kids program. The Food Bank can distribute the barrel and collect items each month. (Action Item)
 - Host an after-school nutrition program. A Food Bank employee would come to the library once a month to present an after school program that educates children about nutrition, food preparation and food safety. The lesson could be based on the collection item for the month. For example, if the collection item is peanut butter, the Food Bank would do a lesson on the nutritional benefits of peanut butter and protein. Then they would show children fun snacks to make with peanut butter and let them enjoy the snacks they prepare.
- * The Library would participate in the 2015 Hunger Bowl competition where registered teams compete against other groups between Oct. 30 and Nov. 13 to see which team can collect the most food. The

food bank has set a goal to collect 220,000 pounds of food during this year's competition. All of the food raised will be distributed to food insecure residents in northeast Georgia to help them share a holiday meal with their family. (Action Item)

Staff News & Notables

Valerie Bell, Library Director

- * On September 30th, four **Resource Team** members attended an "Active Shooter Event" class taught by Lt. Christopher Nichols of the ACC Police Dept.
- * **Angela Stanley** will be presenting at the Society of Georgia Archivists annual conference, in a panel titled "Identifying and Keeping Volunteers." This session will discuss how archivists at three different types of institutions have worked with members of the public to provide mutually beneficial experiences for both the volunteer and the repository.
- * **Angela Stanley** has been accepted as a participant in GPLS's "Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education" (PINNACLE). The Institute includes seven sessions, beginning with a week-long retreat in October 2015, and continues with six 3-day sessions to be held every other month at various public libraries throughout the state.
- * A total of **18 ARLS staff** attended the **Georgia COMO** Conference held in Athens this year.
- * **Priscilla Lewis and Eddie Whitlock** presented at the COMO conference. Their program is called "Duct Tape Wallets: An Economic Success Story for Teens." This is based on the event last spring in which the teens made wallets to sell in the Library Store, with all proceeds going to OxFam for a family to purchase livestock.
- * **Evan Bush** also presented at COMO as part of a panel discussion on "Three Approaches to Early Literacy Outreach Programs."
- * Pinewoods Branch Manager **Aida Quinones** presented on a panel concerning "Insights and Perspectives on the Local Latin@ Community," a half-day workshop, sponsored by the UGA School of Social Work.
- * Pinewoods Branch Manager **Aida Quinones** was named "Outstanding Character of the Year 2015 in the Education Category" by Mundo Hispanico, a state-wide Spanish-language newspaper owned by Cox Media Group.
- * Watkinsville Children's Specialist **Rebecca Ballard** received a \$3000 Hubbard Scholarship from the Georgia Library Association. Rebecca is pursuing her Master in Library Science degree.
- * Bogart Branch Supervisor **Donna Butler** will attend the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, TN.

Personnel

Valerie Bell, Library Director

ARLS welcomed 15 new staff who have started work this quarter:

HIRE DATE	NAME	TITLE
6/30/2015	GRETCHEN ELM	OGLETHORPE TEEN SPECIALIST (PT)
7/27/2015	EVAN BUSH	ACCL/ARLS CHILDREN'S SERVICES COORDINATOR (FT)
7/27/2015	ANN GAGNIER	GLASS (PT)
8/3/2015	MALLORY LAWRENCE	GLASS (PT)
8/17/2015	KENZIE FENNIMORE	ACCL CIRCULATION ASSISTANT (PT)
8/18/2015	Ann Ashworth	ROYSTON LIBRARY ASSISTANT (PT)
8/19/2015	GREG VOYLES	ACCL COMPUTER ASSISTANT (PT)
8/24/2015	JAYLN FLEMING	ACCL TEEN SERVICES ASSISTANT (PT)
8/25/2015	KELLY HART	ACCL DIGITAL MEDIA CENTER ASSISTANT (PT)
9/21/2015	OLIVIA CONTI	ACCL INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARIAN (PT)
9/22/2015	RICHELLE BROWN	ACCL HERITAGE ROOM LIBRARIAN (PT)

9/29/2015	KENDALL CRAWFORD	ACCL TEEN SERVICES ASSISTANT (PT)
9/30/2015	MARTHA KAPELWESKI	ACCL INFORMATION SERVICES LIBRARY ASSISTANT (PT)
10/1/2015	TARA BLAZE LOONEY	ACCL SHELVING - ADULT SERVICES (PT)
10/5/2015	BILLIE JO (BJ) PYRZENSKI	GLASS (PT)

* Oglethorpe County Branch Manager, Tiffany Speed continues to be on leave and will be out until December 2, 2015. To supply coverage, ARLS Assistant Directors Donna Brumby and Lorena Griffin have each worked a weekly shift at the branch along with two long-term substitutes. We have been careful to keep staff expenditures within the budgeted amount.

* We are requesting that ARLS staff be allowed to contribute sick leave to Tiffany while the ARLS board determines its Sick Leave Bank policy. (Action Item)

* We are also requesting that Tiffany be allowed to return to work on a part-time basis when she is ready. (Action Item)

Authorizations & Approvals

Valerie Bell, Library Director

- A. Authorization to partner with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia as an intermittent food collection site, dependent upon space and time availability and at the discretion of the Library Director.
- B. Authorization to partner with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia on various activities as they arise, dependent upon space and time availability and at the discretion of the Library Director.
- C. Authorize Kathryn Ames as a consultant in the planning, expansion and construction of the Bogart Branch building project.
- D. Approve all branches of the Athens Regional Library System to be closed to the public on Wednesday, November 11, 2015, so that staff may attend the annual Staff Development Day of Training.
- E. Approve the schedule of dates and times to hold the Athens Regional Library System Board of Trustee meeting for the 2016 calendar year.
- F. Approve the 2016 annual holiday closing schedule for all facilities in the Athens Regional Library System.
- G. Approval for Oglethorpe Branch Manager Tiffany Speed to return to work in December on a part-time schedule not to exceed 4 months.
- H. Authorization to allow full-time staff, of an equal or higher salary, the ability to donate sick-time hours to Tiffany Speed as the ARLS board determines a Sick Leave Bank policy.

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY BOARD
Draft Minutes of July 16, 2015 Meeting
Athens-Clarke County Library Board Room 3:30 pm

Meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chairman Slater (Franklin County). Present were Ms. Mills, Mr. Campbell (Oconee County), Ms. Shoemaker, Mr. Cannon (Franklin County), Mr. Gresham, Mr. Shapiro, Ms. Westmacott (Oglethorpe County), Ms. Harrison, Ms. Booth (Madison County), Mr. Eberhard, Mr. Prokasy (Athens-Clarke County). Absent were Mr. Wyatt (Oconee County), Mr. Timmons, Mr. Hopper (Athens-Clarke County), Mr. Nale (Madison County). Staff present were Ms. Bell, Ms. Simonds, Ms. Brumby, Ms. Gay-Griffin, and Ms. Ovington (who recorded the Minutes).

The Minutes of April 16, 2015 board meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Mr. Shapiro, seconded by Mr. Eberhard). The Agenda was unanimously approved (moved by Ms. Booth, seconded by Mr. Shapiro). There was no public comment.

Financial Report:

Ms. Simonds gave the year-end financial report for 4Q FY2015, ending June 30, 2015. Overall, revenues were at 99.59% and expenditures were at 97.34%. She stated that the state had a surplus in revenues which was added to the FY15 materials budget in the amount of \$26,299.00. Regional fees collected and unbudgeted were at \$22,078.23. On the expenditures side, Director Search expenditures came in at \$4,390.94. Supplies budget came in under at 93.89% or \$18,778 total. Ms. Simonds also attached a page of Outside Grants for the region totaling \$289,967.

Regional Reports

Athens-Clarke County:

Mr. Eberhard relayed that they completed the final budget and did not get as much as they asked the Commission for, and they took suggestions for the future to help in the future due to increase such as the rent increase at the Pinewoods branch. Budget was formally approved. They are looking at bringing in a marker taken from an old opera house in town, idea bought by Heritage Room. A triple-wide trailer will be obtained for Pinewoods, rent is going up a third and a new foundation will need to be poured – they are not line-item budgeted in the FY16 annual budget. Next fiscal year it will be budgeted, and this year it will be taken from other funds. Region-wide “Reimagine Your Library” advocacy campaign will be rolled out soon with billboards, etc. Athens-Clarke County Friends of the Library is having a Book Sale Aug. 13-15.

Madison County:

Ms. Booth said all figures are up, especially Adult Programs with a 134% increase in attendance. Two new Board members, one is their retired magistrate judge and the other is a Methodist minister. The outdoor classroom and Zen garden are successful additions being worked on. The Madison County Library has won an ALA grant to host the second national tour of the interactive traveling exhibition *Discover Tech: Engineers Make a World of Difference*. It is one of eight libraries to host that exhibit for 3 months in the next two years (dates TBA).

Oconee County:

Ms. Mills relayed that they still have not yet been able to find out why their legislative delegation did not support the Bogart library expansion, but one member of that delegation approached the Oconee library and said they would like new proclamations from their Library Board and also from Oconee County indicating their own support for the project, something in hand that shows they support it. That was issued to the legislative delegation. Another push for the Bogart expansion will happen, they've been told it's still on the list. They also have a new Adult Services Librarian who has been doing well. They just had a well-received watercolor arts exhibit with 100 attendees. They also participated in a mini-program by their Chamber of Commerce and another individual where they bring together high school and middle school students and, over a week's time, they take them to different places in the county to show them where they can volunteer, so they came to their library. The kids were very much interested as they were introduced to all service areas, including the genealogy. There's a door in the Children's section that is a split door that has been repaired three times, so the FOL gave them \$500 toward it being replaced. The FOL is having a Book Sale on Sept. 24-26 at the Oconee Civic Center. One of the very active FOL Board members passed away unexpectedly in February, Lesley Maggiore, and almost \$500 in memorial donations came in; therefore, a meeting will happen to decide what may be obtained from those donations, perhaps a work of art, etc.

Oglethorpe County:

Ms. Westmacott reported that, at their May 4th meeting, she introduced new Director Valerie Bell to the Oglethorpe County Board of Commissioners at their monthly meeting. The Commissioners were thanked for their support and reminded of the importance of the library to the community. On May 19, Ms. Bell, Ms. Lorena Gay-Griffeth and Ms. Westmacott attended the Oglethorpe County Board of Education meeting to do the same, as well as inform the board and superintendent about the library's educational programs such as the Summer Reading Program (sponsored by their Friends group) and the intensive grant-supported GED program beginning in August at the library. These visits were the first of several intended to eventually increase financial support for their library. Four of their board members (Bill Cabaniss, Tom Gresham, Phyllis Jackson and Jean Westmacott) attended the "Legal Issues for Trustees" seminar with GPLS State Librarian Julie Walker on May 20 at the ACC Library. Ms. Westmacott has been invited to represent the Oglethorpe County Library as one of the speakers for Community Day on August 1 in Crawford. Their FOL group will also have an activities table at the event. The one vacant board position has now been filled by Frances Hansford. The book exchange program is now ready to start in 2-3 locations: Maxeys, Arnoldsville, and Sandy Cross. They have been working on the FY16 Budget and are waiting for the BOC's final decision as to the amount. In-Behalf funds for power and water/sewer will be allotted to the library's control and paid through the ARLS Business Office. Anticipated savings as a result of new T-8 light fixtures and HVAC repair can then be used for other library expenses. Their Board has requested additional funding from Oglethorpe County to cover the TRS increase for the Branch

(continued)

Manager and to give staff a small increase in pay. Eight people attend an early-morning BOC public hearing on the County Budget in support of those requested increases. Commission Chair Billy Pittard was present for the hearing; follow-up letters with copies of the talking points given to Mr. Pittard were mailed to each District Commissioner.

Franklin County:

Ms. Shoemaker reported that they got \$405 increase this year in their budget. Their SRP is doing well. Royston's FOL group decided that they want the community to know more about their reading programs, they invited their different entities in the County to come read--the BOE and Commissioners may come so that they can see what happens in the Reading programs to boost awareness in the County. The cracks are fixed in the Royston building. Lavonia has finished its first Phase of renovation on the outside of their building, in their parking lot. A document was put together to see how much county commissions in neighboring counties are giving to their libraries, and it was clear that their county is in a difficult position with regard to overall finances.

Director's Report, by Valerie Bell:

- ARLS has received another MRR grant in the amount of one hundred thousand three hundred ten (\$100,310) dollars for fiscal year 2016. She is told this is more than what is usually received.
- PINES has a new patron profile that they want all participating libraries to adopt. This new patron type is for an institutional card. Staff prepared a policy statement for the new profile which was distributed to Board. Motion to accept by Mr. Eberhard, seconded by Mr. Cannon, unanimously approved.
- ACCL will be the site of the GPLS hosting the next PINES (the online Integrated Library System) Mini-Conference on August 25-26, 2015.
- Athens will be the host site of *Georgia COMO* (Council of Media Organizations) Annual Conference this year in October at the Classic Center. We anticipate have 4 staff presenting at this conference with 17 overall attendees.
- With regard to personnel, Ms. Bell said she has made some changes to the structure of the libraries management team. She presented a new organization chart for review. She would like to have Ms. Lorena Gay-Griffin promoted to the Assistant Director title. Ms. Gay-Griffith is the supervisor for 10 of the regions 11 branches. She also supervises our Georgia Libraries for Accessible Statewide Services program. Ms. Joy Ovington is moving to the position of Operations Manager. Ms. Ovington will continue to be in charge of the library's facilities, purchasing and personnel matters. She will be hiring a new Administrative Assistant toward the end of the year.
- Ms. Tiffany Speed, Branch Manager of the Oglethorpe County Library, is on FMLA for 12 weeks through and potentially beyond September 9. Ms. Bell

requested time-off allowance for her to care for her special situation. Motion to approve this by Ms. Westmacott, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, unanimously approved.

- Mr. Evan Bush has accepted the position of Coordinator of Children's Services for the Athens-Clarke County Library. Mr. Bush has more than 11 years of library experience in Children's Services, and also taught elementary for five years in Clarke County. She discussed his training and experience. At Athens, Mr. Bush will be responsible for the day-to day operations of the ACCL children's department. Additionally, Mr. Bush will be working with Children's Services staff across the Region on collection development, system programming, and idea exchange and support. Mr. Bush 's first day at ACCL will be Monday, June 27.
- Mr. Logan Smalley, a former Athens resident, has developed a website called "Call Me Ishmael" (callmeishmael.com) for people to leave recorded messages about their favorite book. He recently developed the "Call Me Ishmael" phone that will let readers dial a number to hear about their favorite book. On that coming Friday afternoon, Logan will be at ACCL trying out the prototype of the phone. He'll set up in the lobby, and patrons can stop by, choose one of the books offered, and hear someone's story about that book. He just wants to get feedback from people about how it works. He tested it on Wednesday at Avid Books. The phone looks like an old-fashioned payphone, and he will not be in the way of patrons. This is a very interesting project and Logan already has several libraries interested in getting the device. Logan was also instrumental in developing the documentary "Darius Goes West."
- This summer, Ms. Donna Butler, Bogart Library Supervisor, and a team of Tween helpers, offered two well attended programs for children and their grown-ups. (These were in addition to Bogart's Monday Fun-Day for babies and toddlers.) The Fine Motor Fun Festival provided parents with ideas for building pre-writing skills, while the children did seven activities. The Toddler Art program concentrated on fine motor skills and gave children the opportunity to explore artistic processes, such as texture and color. On June 1st, Ms. Butler was placed on the Early Literacy Manual Committee for the CLSP. The CLSP develops the Summer Reading Programs for Georgia and many other states.
- The ALA Exhibit *Dust, Drought and Dreams Gone Dry*, was a huge success. We hosted 11 programs held between the end of April to the middle of June with a total attendance of 497. In all, we estimate that 5,000 patrons visited the exhibit.

Unfinished Business:

Mr. Prokasy of the Personnel Committee moved Board accept a draft of the Director's Annual Evaluation Form that staff and board members will submit (moved by Mr. Eberhard, seconded by Mr. Shapiro, unanimously approved).

Mr. Eberhard then discussed informational handout on a recent Open Meetings Law workshop led by State Librarian Julie Walker.

Discussion of Leave Bank for Staff postponed until October meeting.

New Business:

Approval of Signature Authority on Certificates of Deposit to be changed from former Director Kathryn S. Ames to current Director Valerie Bell, effective immediately – moved by Ms. Mills, seconded by Ms. Westmacott, unanimously approved.

FY16 Proposed Budget - Ms. Simonds presented the FY16 Regional Proposed Budget. The changes were as follows:

State Personnel budget would increase by \$156,281 due to the addition of one librarian and the zero-based budgeting formula proposed by GPLS.

State Materials budget decreased by \$23,012.

System and Services grant decreased by \$104,475.

Talking Book Center (now GLASS) decreased by \$48,620.

Total State grant decrease = \$19,825.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for additional lobbying at the Capital for funds, as well as details of zero-based budgeting.

Approval of the Regional FY16 Budget was moved by Ms. Booth and seconded by Mr. Shapiro. The budget was approved unanimously.

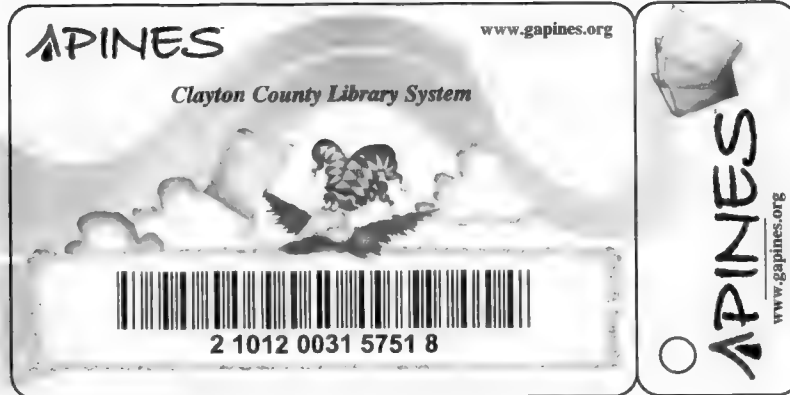
Chairman Slater asked Mr. Prokasy of the Personnel Committee to meet with his Committee and propose a slate of new Officers at the next meeting in October.

Announcements: None

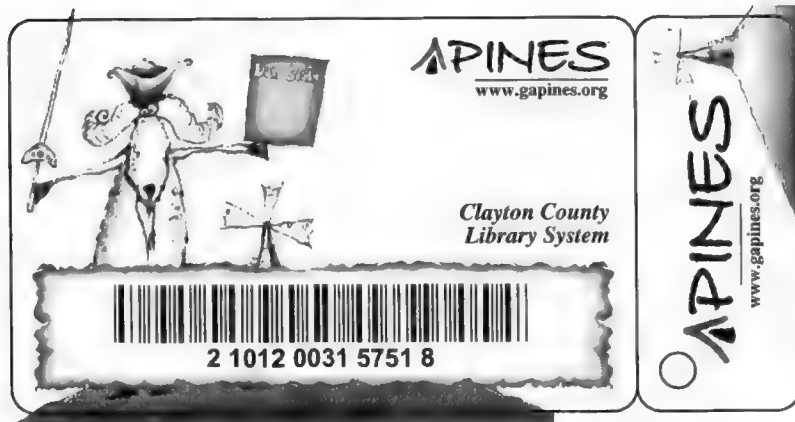
Adjournment: The Meeting was adjourned at 5 pm (moved by Mr. Eberhard seconded by Mr. Shapiro and approved unanimously).

Next Meeting is October 15, 2016 at 3:30 p.m., Athens-Clarke County Board Room

OPTION 1



OPTION 2



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ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM
Policy Committee
Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2015

**Members of the ACCL
Board of Trustees &
Policy Committee
members present:**

Craig Pascoe, Policy Committee Chairperson; Wally Eberhard, ACCL Board of Trustees Chairperson; Shannon Thompson, Policy Committee member; John Timmons, Policy Committee member; David Woods, Policy Committee member; Valerie Bell, Library Director; Evan Bush, ACCL Youth Services Coordinator.

I. Announcements

Chairman Pascoe called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for coming. He noted why the meeting was arranged; to review the library's program policy in light of a letter signed by 30 community members. The letter called into question a story hour program held at the library at which the Chick-Fil-A cow appeared.

Three members of the community (and signers of the letter) were in attendance: Sarah Whitaker; Johanna Nicol; and Christine Morris Caspary.

Chairman Pascoe called on the community members represented to share with the committee their concerns.

II. Discussion

An extensive conversation ensued with community members sharing with the committee their views and desires to keep the library and very young children safe from corporate influence. Members of the committee and both Chairman Eberhard and Chairman Pascoe thanked the community members for coming and speaking with us. Everyone was in agreement that the library and our patrons are best served when open dialog between the community and the Board of Trustees can occur. Valerie Bell, Library Director and Evan Bush, Youth Services Coordinator repeated their gratitude for the community members' attendance and interest in library sponsored programs.

After approximately an hour of discussion the community members left with the committee's thanks.

III. Decision

Committee members discussed the need to alter the existing children's program policy. The group discussed the necessity of providing a balanced view to all programs. Also discussed were the possible limitations that adding a policy against accepting corporate partnerships may impose on the library's services and programs.

In a motion moved by Mr. Timmons and seconded by Mr. Pascoe, the Policy Committee unanimously agreed not to change the existing program policy.

The Policy Committee did instruct Ms. Bell and Mr. Bush to be mindful when planning programs with corporate partners and to be sure that those corporate sponsors be appropriately named in any publicity involving children.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Bell

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

2016

January 21 st	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room
April 21 st	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room
July 21 st	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room
October 20 th	- 3:30 PM	Athens-Clarke County Board Room

ATHENS REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

2016 SCHEDULED CLOSINGS

All Libraries in the Regional System will be Closed:

December 31, 2015; close at 6 PM.....	New Year's Eve
January 1, 2016.....	New Year's Day
January 18, 2016.....	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
March 27, 2016.....	Easter Sunday
May 30, 2016.....	Memorial Day
July 4, 2016.....	Independence Day
September 5, 2016.....	Labor Day
November 11, 2016.....	Staff Development Day
November 23, 2016; close at 6PM.....	Thanksgiving Eve
November 24, 2016.....	Thanksgiving Day
December 24, 25, 26, 2016.....	Christmas Holidays
December 31, 2016; close at 6 PM.....	New Year's Eve
January 1, 2017.....	New Year's Day